

THE LIB DEMS ON THE TRAIL

Inside: the campaign diary of Jane Bonham Carter
PLUS Conrad Russell on the risks of a split

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UNDER THE SKIN OF SPORT

ARSENAL GO SECOND

Winterburn wonder goal sinks Chelsea
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EXTRA

16-PAGE SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT



Pioneering operation on two-year-old

Fertility hope for boys who survive cancer

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE human fertility watchdog has authorised a revolutionary treatment to give boys facing cancer therapy that will render them sterile a chance of fathering children later in life.

The treatment will be used for the first time in the next couple of weeks on a boy aged two who is suffering from a rare metabolic disorder that requires a bone marrow transplant and chemotherapy that will leave him sterile. Doctors hope that the procedure will offer hope to thousands of children who are now surviving cancer, but face adulthood with no prospect of having children of their own.

The pioneering case was referred to the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority last week. It agreed, after a week of intense debate about the ethics and legality of the situation, to allow testicular tissue cells to be taken from the boy before the cancer treatment starts and frozen in liquid nitrogen until he reaches puberty. They could then be re-injected.

Experiments in sterile rats and mice have shown that the process can successfully "repopulate" the testicles, making it possible for them to reproduce. But it will obviously be many years before anyone knows whether the procedure works for human beings.

The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act requires written and informed consent from a patient before tissue is taken and used in fertility treatment. The boy concerned,

Oscar von Memerty, is too young to give such consent, but the authority approved the procedure because the Act covers only mature tissue and the cells that will be taken from Oscar are not.

The authority ruled that the case was fundamentally different from that of Diane Blood who was refused permission to be impregnated by her dead husband's sperm because he had not given his written consent for it to be used before he died. If, however, Oscar eventually decides to have his cell tissue re-injected, he will then have to give written permission.

Oscar and his sister Valeska, 4, both suffer from a rare genetic disorder that will cripple and kill them by their early twenties unless they have bone marrow transplants. Because the law in their native South Africa prohibits such transplants unless the donor is a sibling, Ian and Vivienne von Memerty scoured the world for somewhere their children could be treated using marrow from an unrelated donor. They chose Manchester Children's Hospital and Valeska completed her transplant treatment there two weeks ago. Oscar is due to have his soon.

Bone marrow transplants require massive doses of chemotherapy, which inevitably leads to sterility and the children's parents were resigned to that until they received a telephone call from a South African television sta-

tion ten days ago alerting them to research into being carried out in Nottingham.

The work is being led by Simon Fishel, a biologist who was part of the team behind the first test-tube baby. He runs a chain of clinics worldwide, including one in Johannesburg, where he had been the subject of a television film. The television company also knew about the von Memerty family and realised the relevance of the fertility work.

Mr von Memerty contacted Mr Fishel and asked for Oscar to be given the treatment - as he said last night: "I had to give my son a chance of leading a normal life once he is cured."

Mr Fishel agreed and will make no charge. He said: "This is not a gimmick, but an increasingly important issue in the cancer treatment of young children. There are now 10,000 young adults who have recovered after chemotherapy while they were children, but the majority of them are sterile. The number of these survivors is increasing at the rate of 500 a year."

"We have many reservations about whether this will work, but it does offer a realistic hope as opposed to the certainty that a patient will grow up sterile."

The plan now is for Oscar to have the tissue removed just before the bone marrow transplant begins, so that he will need only one anaesthetic.

Couple's tale, page 3



Oscar von Memerty with his father, Ian. The two-year-old's essential chemotherapy will leave him sterile

Ashdown coalition hint splits Lib Dems

By JILL SHIRAZIAN AND NICHOLAS WOOD

SPLITS in the Liberal Democrat leadership over closer links with Labour last night threatened to overshadow the opening of annual conference today in Eastbourne.

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, suggested that the joint cabinet committee on the constitution which met for the first time last week could extend its remit to cover Europe and Northern Ireland.

He also conceded the possibility of a coalition with Labour in a Scottish Parliament, having earlier angered some MPs after raising the prospect of a coalition at Westminster.

But he came under attack from a number of senior MPs, including Charles Kennedy and Malcolm Bruce, the Liberal Democrat peer. Later conference delegates expressed their unease about Mr Ashdown's remarks at a private session last night.

Charles Kennedy, agricultural spokesman, warned that any moves to coalition could leave "blood on the carpet".

Speaking on BBC radio's *The World This Weekend* Mr Kennedy said there "was a current of apprehension" among members about the risk of losing the party's distinctive identity.

"We are an independent political party, out there to win votes and secure influence and power," said Mr Kennedy. "We have to be extremely careful about using words like coalition."

Malcolm Bruce, the party's treasury spokesman, gave a warning against letting Labour drag its heels over the promised referendum on PR which could leave the Liberal Democrats "high and dry".

In *The Times* today Lord

Continued on Page 2, col 6

French bishops to say 'sorry'

French bishops will offer a formal "repentance" for the Roman Catholic Church's failure to condemn the persecution of Jews during the Vichy regime. The "declaration on the attitude of bishops in the war" will be made at the site of the principal Jewish internment camp. Page 14

Soros warning

George Soros, the billionaire financier, told the IMF in Hong Kong that the global economic boom will soon end in bust. He also attacked Mahatma Mohamad, Prime Minister of Malaysia. Page 50

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Crash train warning system 'was not working'

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

A CATALOGUE of safety failures may have been partly to blame for the train crash in London on Friday which killed six people and injured 170.

Investigators have discovered that the second of two of the train's automatic safety systems failed to work during the high-speed journey from Swansea.

Safety investigators have been told that an in-cab alarm which is designed to alert a driver's attention to warning signals, had been reported faulty earlier. The automatic warning system (AWS) which sounds a klaxon in the cab if signals indicate that the train should slow down, is a back-up fitted on all trains.

However the driver's log of the Swansea-London journey records details of the AWS system being "isolated" by the time the train left Cardiff.

The disclosure came after it emerged that a more sophisticated back-up, the automatic train protection (ATP) system,

that had been subject to trials on the same rail line, was not working, although it was fitted to the train.

The new evidence is likely to play a key part in the investigation into the crash, which happened when the passenger train crashed into an empty freight train at Southall, west London.

Great Western, which runs the Swansea-Paddington service, said that if the warning system was found to be faulty, rules allowed the train to complete its journey but the fault had to be rectified at the end of the journey.

The AWS, that has been used as a back-up for more than 30 years, sounds an alarm in the driver's cab as the train passes yellow signals warning of a possible red signal ahead. The driver presses a button to acknowledge the alarm and automatic braking happens if he fails to press the button.

The ATP system, used in France and Germany and on

Eurotunnel trains, is more advanced than the warning system because it will take over if the driver is not braking. After the Clapham rail crash in which 35 died, an inquiry report called for the system to be fitted in all trains.

However, the £700million cost, and the system's unreliability in trials, has meant it is being used on only two domestic lines, the Great Western service, on which the crash train was travelling, and the Chiltern route out of Marylebone.

Trade union leaders yesterday claimed that they had agreed an end to the practice of having an assistant driver only because of the prospect of a new warning system. The position of assistant driver, used as a "second pair of eyes" on all trains travelling more than 110mph, was abandoned as part of restructuring by Great Western last year, in line with other companies.

Crash inquiry, page 7

Private schools boost bright pupils' chances

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

BRIGHT pupils who go to independent schools are more likely to win places at top universities and secure well-paid jobs than children of similar ability educated at state schools, according to research to be published later this week.

The findings cast doubt on the common assumption that bright children will fulfil their potential in any environment. Instead, they suggest that parents confer an advantage on their children by rejecting the state system and investing up to £100,000 in school fees.

A study tracking the progress over a decade of 600 young people who scored similar marks in tests aged 11 but who took contrasting educational paths will reassure fee-paying parents. Almost 40 per cent of the independent school pupils went on to Oxford, Cambridge or one of a small number of "elite" universities identified by the researchers, compared with fewer than 30 per cent of those from grammar schools and fewer than 10 per cent at comprehensive schools.

More than 20 per cent did not take any form of higher education after comprehensive schooling, compared with fewer than 15 per cent at grammar schools and fewer than 9 per cent in the independent sector.

All the children chosen for the project passed entrance examinations for selective state or independent schools, or were judged capable of doing so. Of the 300 opting for independent schools, almost half were on assisted places in highly academic schools.

Those interviewed, who are now reduced to 346, were in their mid-twenties when the latest phase of the study was carried out last year. Almost two-thirds now have a degree and some are earning more than £30,000 a year.

The study, to be reported at the European Conference on Educational Research, in Frankfurt, shows a strong link between educational achievement and income.

Brazil 1, Oxford and Cambridge submariners 0

FROM GABRIELLA GAMINI IN MANAUS

THE Oxford and Cambridge rowing crews sank yesterday in the Rio Negro in Brazil after waves caused by an unruly flotilla of yachts, motorboats and jet-skis carrying Brazilian spectators flooded their boats.

The crews, including several of the oarsmen who took part in this year's Boat Race and others who had been in previous years' crews, sank halfway into an arduous 7.6 mile "Amazonian Boat Race", in which a Brazilian eight

made it to the finish. Twenty-five minutes into the race along the Rio Negro, a three-mile-wide Amazon tributary, hundreds of yachts, boats and other vessels, loaded with spectators, ignored warnings from navy patrol boats and got too close.

The boats accompanied the race which started from the port of Manaus, capital of Amazonas state. Dozens ignored loudspeaker warnings and crossed into the rowing lanes. Several high-speed boats swerved in and out of the crews' paths.

The Oxford eight, who were run-

ning third in the race, went down first. Cambridge, a few strokes behind the Brazilian team, sank minutes later.

"We were hit by one large wave and within no time the boat filled and we sank. Our boat also cracked and it was all over in a flash," Charlie Humphreys, 20, a biochemistry undergraduate who will be training to be in next year's Oxford Boat Race crew, said.

"The waves stirred by those boats who just got too close caused us to sink."

Tim Foster, 26, a member of England's Olympic fours and the stroke for the Oxford team, said: "The

waves were too difficult to cope with: the Brazilians had a better idea of where to be on the river."

The Oxford crew sat in their seats with water up their necks for several minutes before they were rescued.

The Brazilian team made it past the finish line after 46 minutes and thousands of people lining the sandy shores cheered. Most have never seen a boat race before and were just happy to know that their team had won.

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Labour to revive its computerised spin-doctor

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

EXCALIBUR, Labour's huge computer database, is to return to service amid concern among ministers over the effectiveness of Whitehall's public relations machine.

The computer, which formed the heart of the party's "rapid rebuttal" media unit during the general election, has been out of action since May 1 due to lack of funds. Some ministers have been so dissatisfied with their departmental press officers that they have demanded Excalibur's return to ensure that any attacks based on incorrect information can be rebutted immediately. Excalibur can also give ministers political ammunition — which neutral civil servants cannot provide — and Labour is keen to

return to its pre-election "war footing" and step up its attacks on William Hague, the Tory leader.

Labour's decision to mothball Excalibur has been criticised by Ken Follert, the Labour-supporting best-selling author who helped to set up the database. In a newspaper article he said: "An asset that cost £1 million has been wasted through sheer stupidity."

The decision to revive Excalibur ends an internal row over whether the party, which is £4.75 million in the red after the election, can afford the £250,000-a-year machine. Some officials argued that outside an election period, Excalibur was an unnecessary extravagance. Bringing the computer back into service

could cost £500,000 because up-to-date information would have to be inputted and there would have to be new hardware. Labour chiefs have resolved the issue by beginning an urgent search for external financial backers and extra staff.

Before the election, swift access to past policy announcements, speeches and press cuttings allowed Labour to counter Tory propaganda and to clarify its shadow ministers' own statements. Since May 1, however, all but one of Excalibur's ten staff at the party's Millbank headquarters near Westminster have gone. Although the computer is still switched on, little new information has been scanned into the system and it is hardly ever used. Before the election, huge volumes of new data, including speeches, press releases and newspapers, would be fed daily into the computer.

A source said: "The system is effectively dead. Some of the more embarrassed officials are saying it is still running but it is not. The whole point about a database like Excalibur is that you keep feeding the machine with information. That is not happening at the moment." But he added: "There are moves afoot to find new backers." Officials hope the computer will be back at full capacity by December 31.

Labour is looking for a series of "high value donors" to share the costs. In 1994, the initial set-up budget was covered by a big donation from Philip Jeffrey, the multi-millionaire businessman. He is unlikely to provide the funding this time, sources said.

In his article, Mr Follert also criticised officials for rejecting a plan to turn the database into a commercial business that gave its services free to Labour. "No new scanning has been done since May 1," he said. "A database deteriorates in a week or two if it is not updated. It is now worthless. Even the hardware needs upgrading."



Sir Teddy Taylor on Southend seafront yesterday. He said he had been too polite in listening to the escape details

Tory MP denies plotting to spring friend from Indian jail

By ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A LEADING Tory MP has been linked to an alleged plot to spring a British arms dealer from an Indian prison.

Sir Teddy Taylor confirmed yesterday that details of the attempt to rescue Peter Bleach, a member of his constituency party who faces a possible death sentence, were presented to him at the House of Commons last Wednesday.

He said he did not take the scheme seriously because it was so "complex and far-fetched". One of those involved was John Miller, who was part of an unsuccessful attempt to snatch Ronnie Biggs from Brazil in 1981.

Mr Bleach is accused of supplying weapons to an extremist Hindu group. The *News of the World* yesterday

quoted Sir Teddy as saying at a second meeting with Mr Miller on Saturday: "My friend [Bleach] has been very unfairly dealt with. You're going to have to get him. You've got the big job of getting him."

The MP, who claimed the newspaper had quoted him out of context, said he had asked Mr Miller for details of the escape plan only because he wanted to tip off the authorities. Before he had time to make the call, however, he was confronted by the *News of the World*.

Labour MPs have called for an inquiry into the actions of Sir Teddy, an MP for 17 years. Sir Teddy said he became involved after an approach from a political contact who

brought Mr Miller to the Commons. He wanted to ensure that the Indian courts knew that Mr Bleach had kept the British Government aware of his arms deal, even though Whitehall officials had tried to persuade him to abandon it.

"All I thought, in fairness to Peter — because this could lead to his being hanged — was the least the [British] Government should do is tell the courts of India what had happened," Mr Taylor said.

Mr Bleach, 45, a former intelligence officer, will go on trial this week after being held in a Calcutta jail for 18 months. He is charged with abetting the waging of war in India.

Sir Teddy said he was contacted again by Mr Miller,

who said he had documents that would confirm the MP's theory that the Lockerbie bombing was carried out by a Syrian. They met in a pub near his Rochford and Southend East constituency. Mr Miller arrived with another man he has since discovered to be a reporter. Mr Miller had no Lockerbie documents.

Sir Teddy said: "At the first meeting, I didn't treat it seriously. At the second meeting, this chap [Miller] did seem to have some serious ideas."

"If you hear the whole tape, you will understand," he said. He had been too polite in listening to the details of the plan. "I just wanted a fair trial for Peter and at no time in any way have I been involved in a conspiracy to get him out."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Probation service bid on teenage tearaways

The probation service has bid to run a network of youth offender teams that will supervise new government orders designed to curb teenage tearaways and make parents more responsible.

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, has received a memo from senior probation officers asking that they lead the task of handling "extremely problematical young people who break the law".

Youth crime is Mr Straw's main priority. He is to unveil proposals this week to force parents to impose curfews to stop their children roaming the streets at night, escort them to school to curb truancy and undergo up to three months of classes in parenting.

Girl, 4, alone

A girl of four was alone at home for two days with the body of her father, who was believed to have died of a heart attack. Police said Mary Gerrard thought that her father, Richard, was asleep. The girl was rescued when neighbours in Rochdale, near Manchester, became concerned.

Queen's role

The Scottish National Party will this week debate whether the Queen's role in an independent Scotland should be decided by a referendum. At its annual conference at Rothsay, on the island of Bute, the party will ask if the people should be allowed to choose the head of their newly independent country.

Spy partner freed

The girlfriend of David Shayer, the former MI5 officer, has been released on bail after being questioned about a breach of the Official Secrets Act. Anne Machon, 29, who left MI5 at the same time as Mr Shayer, was held by Charing Cross police for six hours on Saturday. Mr Shayer remains abroad.

Library bequest

An art collection belonging to an Oxford University academic, estimated to be worth over £60,000, is to be sold to benefit the Bodleian Library in gratitude for its assistance to him over 60 years. The bequest was made by the Rev Dr John Kelly, principal of St Edmund Hall for 28 years, who died in March.

Son faces eviction

Social security officials have told Dominic Gundry-White, 17, who lives alone in the family home in Bristol that they plan to evict him and sell the house to pay for the nursing home care of his father, John, 65, who has Alzheimer's disease. Dominic wants some of the sale proceeds to buy him a flat.

Dana campaign

The singer Dana is to extend her campaign for the Irish presidency to Britain and the United States, this week. The former Eurovision Song Contest winner, 44, who is campaigning under her real name, Rosemary Scallon, is trailing in the presidential race, according to opinion polls.

Red tape savings

All mergers between NHS trusts will be expected to save at least £500,000 in red tape within two years of going ahead, Alan Milburn, the Health Minister, said. Savings would be retained locally for investment in frontline services. There are 16 merger proposals involving 30 trusts at present.

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Cabinet pay anger as Prescott seeks a deal

By ANDREW PIERCE

TRADE union leaders and left-wing Labour MPs reacted with fury yesterday to plans for Cabinet ministers to donate their £16,000 pay rises to charity next year to demonstrate restraint to public sector workers.

The proposal, which is being canvassed among ministers by John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, was mooted last week by Downing Street officials yesterday even as the fiasco over whether ministers would accept their rise was unfolding. The decision not to take the extra money would save the Treasury £400,000 a year which, with inflation, would be close to £2 million by the next election. The memorial fund being set up in memory of Diana, Princess of Wales, would be the most likely beneficiary if the money went to charity.

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, accused ministers of engaging in public relation politics. "The Labour government is in one almighty mess over public sector pay," he said. "If the



John Prescott: looking for pay row solution

argument is that the country's economy cannot afford big pay increases then to take them anyway, and give them to charity, knocks a big hole in the Chancellor's case.

"We are in a worse position now than we were under the last administration. I support the right of ministers to take the pay rise and wait for the day that the Government will acknowledge that head teachers, doctors and nurses are also entitled to salaries which recognise the importance of

their work. In the meantime they should worry less about public relations."

There was growing criticism behind the scenes of the way the issue was handled after the Treasury ordered a freeze on the public sector pay bill next year. The freeze will hit the salaries of doctors, nurses, teachers and thousands of public servants.

There were heated discussions at last week's Cabinet meeting because many ministers felt they had been bounced into the problem by Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, a bachelor who lives in a subsidised house, who let it be known that he and his deputy Alistair Darling would not be taking the rise.

Government sources denied that there had been a disagreement. But Mr Prescott said yesterday that there was "an argument" in Cabinet on Thursday during a five-minute discussion. He then immediately corrected himself and described it as a "discussion".

"It certainly wasn't heated at all," he told the BBC *On the Record* programme. The charity proposal was being considered, he said.

Schools

Continued from page 1

ment and earning power. Sally Power, a Bristol University researcher who is one of four academics leading the project, said: "The students who went to private schools have certainly done better than those at comprehensives or grammar schools. We are still analysing how much this is a matter of background as much as differences in schools."

An opinion poll published today by the Independent Schools Information Service shows the continuing popularity of the assisted places scheme. Although the Government has now legislated to phase out assisted places, MORI found that more than half of all Labour voters thought the scheme a good use of public money.

Lib Dem coalition split

Continued from page 1

Russell also speaks against co-opting up with Labour and claims that Tony Blair has yet to show his true colours, is arrogant in power and cannot deliver help for the poor within Tory spending limits.

"We have grown in 40 years from the Rutland of British politics to the Scotland of bloody-minded sense of our own identity is part of our survival kit. We will not go into an electoral pact. We cannot deliver our voters, let alone our activists."

"We will not go into a coalition on the basis of Mr Blair's present policies even if our leaders recommend it," says Lord Russell.

Last night Lord Holme, the party's spokesman on Northern Ireland underlined the

implications of adopting PR at Westminster. "Anyone who campaigns for PR but rules out coalition in any circumstances is suffering from a serious logic deficit."

Mr Ashdown's move to back closer links coincided with a decision by Tony Blair to send two of his top lieutenants, Frank Field and Alistair Darling, to Eastbourne to address fringe meetings.

Several Liberal Democrats are uneasy about messages about closer cooperation because they feel it muddies the party's aim of trying to secure as many seats at Westminster as possible.

At a press briefing both Alan Beith, the Deputy Leader and Nick Harvey, Campaigns Chairman, said that the party had to provide constructive opposition to Labour and in

many areas had to put up an equal fight against both Labour and the Tories.

MPs are also concerned that Mr Ashdown's desire to shine at the joint Cabinet committee will overshadow what should have been a celebration of a record number of Liberal Democrat MPs.

Speakers this week will highlight the need for the Liberal Democrats to have a distinctive identity and oppose Labour over health and education spending.

Mr Ashdown insisted that he wanted to use this new opportunity in British politics to "break the destructive tribalism in Britain."

Party women, page 10
Peter Riddell and Conrad Russell, page 22
Leading article, page 25

How couple found hope for their son

Ian Murray on parents whose tragic misfortune was lightened by a revolutionary fertility treatment for sterilised boys

WHEN Ian von Memerty met his future wife, Vivienne, in Johannesburg ten years ago, they found that they had a great deal in common. They were both extroverts. She was a dancer and he was an all-round entertainer, playing the piano, singing, dancing, acting and writing reviews.

But it was only after they married and when their first child, a girl called Valeska, was two years old that they discovered something else in common: they were carriers of a rare abnormal gene, which meant their children were at serious risk from an inherited metabolic disorder that would kill them.

Their misfortune has led to their son becoming the first to benefit from a revolutionary treatment that will help boys about to be sterilised during cancer treatment to retain their fertility. The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority has given its approval.

Mr von Memerty said that, when the couple noticed their daughter was a little hard of hearing, "we weren't worried, but took her to see a paediatrician to be sure. He just happened to be someone who knew about the rare condition she was suffering from."

The chances of two people with the same genetic problem having children are less than one in a million. The trauma of finding that their genes had probably condemned their daughter to a painful and early death was worsened by the realisation that their unborn son might have the same condition.

Only one in four babies born to parents in these circumstances inherit the disease, but the danger made the couple consider an abortion. They decided against it because the only hope of saving Valeska was a bone marrow transplant, and under South African law only

THE DOCTOR

SIMON FISHEL, 44, is a reproductive biologist who has been involved in research about infertility for more than 20 years. A colleague of Robert Edwards and the late Patrick Steptoe, he was part of the team that produced Louise Brown, the first test-tube baby, in 1978 and was deputy scientific director at Bourn Hall, Cambridge, the world's first test-tube baby clinic.

In 1991 Mr Fishel set up an infertility clinic at Nottingham, intended to be a self-financing unit to make money for the university. His breakthrough research while there included successfully using immature sperm cells to produce the first baby to be born to an infertile father. His team have also been the first in Britain to inject a single sperm into a mother's egg.

In April he resigned from the unit and was told to leave immediately rather than work out his three months' notice. Sixteen members of his staff left with him to set up a private clinic.

In July the university issued a writ against him, seeking return of documents and information, plus damages for breach of contract. The university claimed that Mr Fishel was undertaking private work without permission. He has since served a writ for slander against a member of the unit's staff.

Whatever the outcome of the legal argument, his expertise in infertility treatment has made him an acknowledged world expert on the subject. He has published over 100 scientific papers on infertility and three books on in-vitro fertilisation. He organised the first world congress on immature sperm conception in Rome two years ago and he has published much of his work on the Internet.



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cannot expel fatty acids from their cells throughout the body. The cells store the fatty acids and swell.

"The prognosis is death by the late teens or early twenties. The child becomes crippled, wheelchair bound, unable to comb the hair, wash, feed or look after itself. The hearing and sight are vastly impaired. Mentally, the child is absolutely fine. Inside that tormented body, the brain is working normally. The frustration is terrible while they wait to die."

The couple began a worldwide search for a hospital capable of providing bone marrow treatment. "I went hospital-shopping," Mr von Memerty said. "We narrowed it down to Minneapolis, Great Ormond Street and the Manchester Children's Hospital. We chose Manchester because they have a small unit with nurses who really specialise in this kind of care. They have a great success rate and we have every faith in them. What is more, it is only a third the price of the States and around half what it would have cost if we had stayed in London. In Manchester we can afford to have a house, whereas in London we would have been cramped in a tiny flat."

To raise the money needed for the treatment, the couple decided last December to use their showbusiness contacts, to publicise their case on television and to play on public sympathy. "You have to market tragedy. When you are faced with this sort of choice, dignity flies out the window."

In February Mr von Memerty flew to Manchester to begin her 40-day transplant treatment. The couple shared a 24-hour vigil by her bedside throughout. She was released two weeks ago and already her parents notice a change for the better.

When a South African television company told them



Ian and Vivienne von Memerty yesterday with Oscar and, foreground, Valeska

South Africa is an emerging nation with enormous poverty."

At the end of July Valeska began her 40-day transplant treatment. The couple shared a 24-hour vigil by her bedside throughout. She was released two weeks ago and already her parents notice a change for the better.

When a South African television company told them

about work being done in Nottingham on restoring fertility to children who had been sterilised by chemotherapy, they decided immediately to volunteer Oscar as a trial patient.

"If you are going to play God, then you have got to do it properly. This is a child who was doomed to be crippled and die but who I now hope will one day drive, dance,

walk, run, maybe fall in love, marry and want to have children."

For Vivienne, their decision to take part in the experiment goes beyond their son. "After all that has been done for us, we feel obliged to do something which will help other children who will face this kind of problem. There is now hope for Oscar and that hope can be shared."

Present holds key to future success

DR THOMAS STUTTFORD

IT IS easy to understand why any parent would wish to protect the reproductive capability of their child: the desire for procreation and perpetuation is very strong. In this respect the charm of the baby involved is irrelevant.

The important feature in this case is that there are about 500 children in Britain who are the subject of sterilisation, but if there might be a way of preserving the sperm-producing capability a parent will want to seize it.

Simon Fishel is now doing research on the preservation of the sper-

MEDICAL BRIEFING

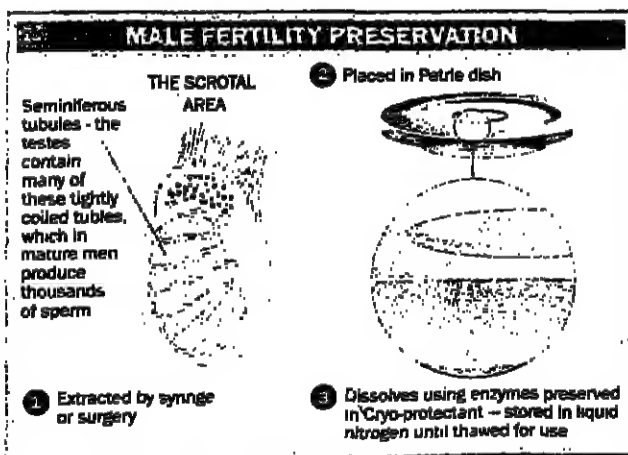
matogenic cells of a child. He hopes to be able to salvage the appropriate cells before the child is irradiated so that 15-20 years later they may be taken out of the refrigerator and be reinserted back into the patient's previously infertile testis.

He claims evidence from rats and mice that his procedure will work. But there is as yet no evidence that it will succeed in humans. Any proof will only be available in 15-20 years' time when this generation of irradiated babies grows up and mates. In the meantime there will be a steady demand for Dr Fishel's expertise and storage facilities.

The problems will not only centre on the storage of the spermatogenic tissue from the baby but whether the baby's testis, which was so damaged by the initial irradiation and would therefore have grown in a very different way, will in 20 years' time be capable of being restored to a state in which the formerly frozen spermatogenic material will become established and produce viable sperm.

In the meantime any older people, whether post-pubertal or adult who are having irradiation, should store sperm.

The technique that can help boys bank on future



STUDIES on sterilised mice have given researchers reason to believe that it is possible to restore fertility to children who have had their reproductive systems destroyed by chemotherapy.

Restoring fertility after chemotherapy is slightly easier for girls because they are born with all the eggs they will have. By removing ovarian tissue with its immature eggs and freezing it for storage until the woman is fit and old enough, it is possible to help her to have a child.

For boys, the problem is complicated by the fact that they do not produce sperm until puberty and they are not therefore capable of fertilising eggs. The studies with sterilised mice in

THE OPERATION

America and Japan have given hope that this problem can be overcome.

In these studies, the testicles of sterilised male mice have been injected with cells taken from the seminiferous tubules of an immature mouse. These tiny tubules are several miles long, coiled inside the testes and semen are produced in them. By injecting young but immature cells into the testes of the sterile mice, they have been "repopulated" and made once again capable of reproduction.

It is this technique that the Nottingham clinic will follow with Oscar von Memerty. Under anaesthetic, the cells

will probably be sucked up using a wide hypodermic needle, or they may be taken out by making a tiny incision. The cells will then be put into a Petri dish, dissolved in enzymes and held in suspension with a kind of anti-freeze called cryo-protectant. They will be stored in a container of liquid nitrogen until they are needed when they can be thawed out and reinserted.

Simon Fishel, the reproductive biologist who has evolved the technique, freely admits that success is not certain, even though it appears to work perfectly with mice. The tubules may atrophy over the 15 years before Oscar

is ready for them to be reinserted. "There are probably problems out there that we haven't even thought of yet, but medical science moves fast and who knows what will happen over the next 20 years," Mr Fishel said.

"All we do know is that if we do nothing, Oscar will have no chance. This way there is certainly hope and we can start finding things out on behalf of all the children who are made sterile in this way. If we do nothing, nothing will happen."

A total of 1,130 children under the age of 15 are diagnosed with cancer every year. About 70 per cent of them survive and lead normal lives after treatment, although most are sterile.

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Nelson's last orders were for more port

A receipt reveals admiral spent half his pay on drink before Trafalgar, writes Philip Delves Broughton

NELSON'S reputation for modesty and sobriety may be at risk after the discovery that six weeks before the Battle of Trafalgar he spent more than half his annual salary on port.

A receipt and letter, both addressed to the Rt Hon Lord Nelson, were found recently by a Norfolk antique dealer and confirm the admiral's order of three pipes — 375 gallons — of top quality port costing £308 and two shillings.

A Bank of England spokesman said the equivalent amount at today's prices was £8.571.

The receipt shows the wine was delivered on September 7, 1805, to Nelson's estate at Merton Place in Surrey where he lived with his mistress, Lady Hamilton. Unfortunately he never enjoyed the port as 45 days later, on October 21, he died in Hardy's arms having been shot as he stood on the deck of HMS Victory at Trafalgar.

The handwritten order of September 2 from wine merchant James Lavell of St Martin's Lane, London, says each pipe of port is priced at £102 with packing £2 extra.

It states: "James Lavell has sent in a bill of purchase of the three pipes of port by desires of my Lord at the very lowest price and will let them be as good as that or superior to any with [sic] your lordship would pay £115 for, and shall take care that the gentlemen shall be perfectly satisfied."

It adds: "I will send your lordship an account of when they are all bottled and carefully done which I will be careful to do."

"In the very best manner by your lordship's faithful and very much obliged servant with humble thanks and greatest respect, James Lavell."

Andrew Bullock, head of the books and collectors department at GA Key auctioneers in Aylsham, Norfolk, who are

auctioning the papers on Friday, said: "This is a huge amount of port bought at a considerable cost by Nelson."

"At the time he must have known there was a strong likelihood that he was going to be fighting the French at sea. It appears he must have been planning a monumental party to mark his victory."

"It is just a shame that he was not able to be there himself."

There are several curiosities in this order. Firstly, Nelson is unlikely to have taken the port with him to sea as all of his food and drinking needs were taken care of by the Admiralty.

Secondly, port was never really his drink. He preferred the sweet Italian Marsala wine. No jaunt through the Mediterranean for him was

complete without a stop in Marsala to load up with supplies.

Thirdly, he was a reasonably frugal man and unlikely to spend with such extravagance. Unlike many other sailors, he was not a notable drinker, though there are a few recorded moments when his manservant, Tom Allen, had to help a groggy Nelson to bed.

These inconsistencies lead Les Winter, a founder member of the Nelson Society, to detect the hand of Lady Hamilton in the port purchase.

"She was a notorious entertainer and loved giving parties. Her late husband Sir William used to complain that there were never less than 14 people to dinner every night," he said.

It was fortunate for the admiral that he lived in a pre-credit card era.

"Nelson used to moan about her extravagance, but went along with anything she wanted."

"Lady Hamilton was born a blacksmith's daughter and when she married into high society it went to her head. She nearly broke her husband financially and there was no doubt that she would have done the same to Nelson if he had lived."

"Forking out half his annual salary on port was a huge expense, particularly as he still had to pay for the running of his estate and alimony for his wife who he separated from in 1801."

"It is possible that Lady Hamilton might have bought it in his name and he might not have known anything about it until he got the bill."

After Nelson's death, Lady Hamilton continued spending extravagantly and eventually bankrupted herself. She was forced to pawn all her possessions, including her wedding ring. She died in France in 1817, a pauper.

Nelson: ordered 375 gallons of port

Barbara Mayo was found strangled 27 years ago. She had been raped



Barbara Mayo was found strangled 27 years ago. She had been raped

Husband in murder inquiry dies

By TIM JONES

A FORMER policeman collapsed and died days after being questioned again over the disappearance of his former wife 26 years ago.

Detectives had hoped that DNA detection procedures, which were unknown at the time she vanished, would help to determine whether Michael Johnson, 52, had been responsible for murdering her.

Mr Johnson, who was detained by detectives last Tuesday morning at his

home in Eastleigh, Hampshire, suffered a heart attack and died on Saturday. His first wife, Caroline, a cook and dietitian, was 25 when she vanished in 1971 from their home in Chandler's Ford, Hampshire.

Mr Johnson, who had been interviewed several times by police, always claimed he last saw his wife when she stormed out of their home after an argument, leaving him to look after their two daughters, Sarah and Frances, then aged four and six.

Two years after she vanished police

searched the family home and dug up the garden but found no evidence to connect him with any crime.

Last week, forensic scientists arrived at the new home Mr Johnson shared with his second wife, Angela. They used high-technology equipment to examine his garden and took numerous items from his home.

When his wife, described as 5ft tall, brown eyed and plump and with a rudely complexion disappeared, Mr Johnson said: "I didn't murder her but unless she turns up dead or alive

how can I prove my innocence?" He added: "She liked men and liked to be noticed. She couldn't stand the restrictions of married life."

Mr Johnson, who resigned from the force in 1974, collapsed while working on his boat at Kemp's Quay, Bitterne, Southampton.

Last night Robert Pender, the husband of the missing woman's sister, said from his home in Melbourne: "Now Michael has died it will almost certainly remain a mystery for ever."

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Hague's grassroots plan backfires

Only a quarter of members have voted in the ballot for party reform.

The result will hardly be a ringing endorsement, writes Andrew Pierce

WILLIAM HAGUE's unprecedented attempt to secure the endorsement of grassroots members of the Conservative Party has backfired. Only a quarter are believed to have voted in the ballot that was supposed to crown him the undisputed leader at next month's party conference.

About 400,000 ballot papers have been sent out by Central Office, but the absence of a centralised membership list, and the disarray caused by May's election landslide, has meant that many forms never reached their intended destinations. Others went to people who died years ago.

"I will be amazed if we get more than 100,000 papers back," said one Tory strategist last night. "But at least we have begun the process of internal party democracy."

Mr Hague's criticism of the Welsh referendum result last week could return to haunt him. He said that the size of the vote, which could be even less convincing than his own endorsement in the leadership ballot, was "not a proper mandate" for a Welsh assembly.

It emerged that Mr Hague is facing increasing opposition from MPs to his plans to give

the mass membership a say in future leadership contests. A preferred option in the "green paper" for party reform, which will be unveiled at the conference in Blackpool next month, gives MPs the right to run American-style primary contests in the privacy of the Palace of Westminster.

Criticism of Mr Hague's attempts to reform the party burst into the open in a letter to *The Times* on Saturday from Alan Clark, the former minister. Mr Clark criticised Mr Hague's decision to ask one question on the ballot paper — linking the endorsement of his leadership with the acceptance of six principles for reform of the party. Mr Clark believed they should be separate questions.

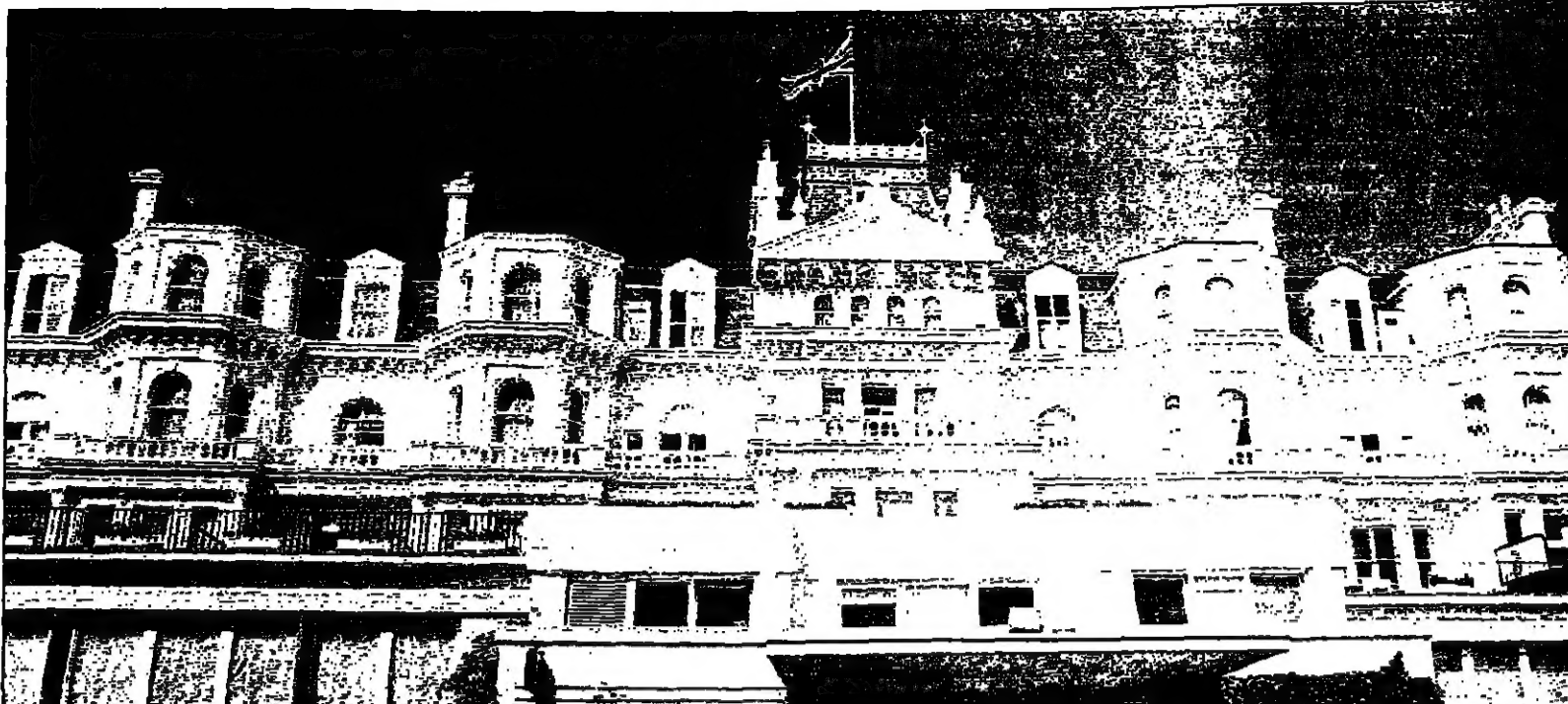
The speculation over Mr Hague's leadership continued at the weekend when it was confirmed that Michael Portillo would speak at the conference. Chris Patten will speak the eve of Mr Hague's keynote address to the conference. One Tory MP said: "The big cats are circling."

Having endured his worst week since becoming leader, there was support today for Mr Hague from Norman Lamont, the former Chancellor, and Michael Trend, the party's deputy chairman, in letters to *The Times*.

Mr Trend delivered a sharp rebuff to Mr Clark. He wrote: "The order of the day is: change or oblivion. William Hague has a clear and consistent vision for change. The party must grasp it and work through the details, or face the inevitable consequences."

An unrepentant Mr Hague will resume his nationwide tour today with a visit to East Anglia. He will deliver three speeches to party activists to try to summon support for the ballot, which closes on Wednesday.

Letters, page 23



The opulent Grand Hotel at Eastbourne is soon to be the scene of a two-day bonding session between William Hague and Tory MPs

Tories head for a seaside 'love-in'

By Nicholas Wood

A LUXURY five-star hotel in Eastbourne — the Sussex resort dubbed the retirement home of southern England — has been chosen by William Hague as the venue for his two-day "bonding session" with Tory MPs.

Mr Hague and his colleagues will attempt to rebuild party unity next month amid the marbled splendour of the Grand, a handsome Victorian pile on the promenade.

The opulent hotel, where a suite costs £270 a night and a single room up to £130, has 164 rooms — one fewer than the depleted ranks of the notoriously fractious parliamentary Conservative Party.

But it seems unlikely that Kenneth Clarke will be asked to double up with Teresa Gorman. The presence of husband and wife teams such as the Bottomleys and the Winterjones should ensure that no one needs to share a

HOW ROLE-PLAYING GAMES CAN RAISE MORALE

COMPANIES that design team-building breaks recommend that William Hague organise role-playing games and creative projects to force demoralised and insular MPs to work together.

Peter Maxwell, course director of the Leadership Trust, which has designed breaks for Barclays Bank and C&A, said the situation faced by the Tories was very similar to that of many of his clients.

"You have a company that has recently

seen some serious downsizing at a senior level, and the staff are badly demoralised," he said. "There is a new chief executive who has yet to win everybody's trust and respect, and there is bad blood between many of the managers."

Mr Maxwell said: "I would set up small team projects where different people would have different roles but work towards the same goal."

room. As Mr Hague admitted this week, Tory MPs, notorious for their mutual loathing, are "terrified" at the prospect of being required to play US-style executive games or — even worse — hug one another.

But in a speech to party workers on Thursday night in Stockton-on-Tees, the Tory leader insisted that he would not tolerate the backbiting and feuding that marred John Major's premiership. "I am determined that our

parliamentary party is going to feel like, and behave like, a united political team... They are going to get into the habit of behaving like a united political team. They are jolly well going to have to be a united political team."

But Mr Hague's choice of the Grand should ensure that his political love-in does not prove too arduous. The hotel scores 75 per cent in the Egon Ronay rankings, placing it only one notch down from establishments such as

Claridge's and the Ritz. MPs seeking to unwind after a strenuous day's work pre-tending to be lost in the desert will be able to escape to the hotel's leisure club, which includes a pool, sauna, steam room and solarium. A Jacuzzi is on hand for those who want to take their bonding sessions a step further.

The purple prose of the brochure gives further encouragement to sybarites. "Spacious, gracious and individual, this award-winning

hotel is everything you could wish for and more. From secluded terraces and peaceful gardens to poolside barbecues and jazz bands... and from the extensive facilities of the Leisure Club to the gastronomic delights of the famous Mirabelle restaurant, the Grand can match your every mood."

Alternatively, MPs can sample the delights of Eastbourne — best known for the fact that one in three of the inhabitants is a pensioner.

They have received a letter from Mr Hague telling them to report to Eastbourne on October 21-22.

Attendance is clearly intended to be compulsory. Would-be refuseniks have been told that they will have to make their excuses to the Chief Whip.

Beachy Head is among the local tourist attractions — which might prove a comfort to any MP who concludes that he was right to hate his colleagues after all.

Ministry accused of cover-up over Gulf vaccines

By Michael Evans
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE Ministry of Defence is being accused of a cover-up to protect a senior civil servant over the failure to alert ministers to the dangers of giving Gulf War troops multiple vaccines.

The mixture of drugs has been blamed by thousands of veterans as the most likely cause of their illnesses, which they call Gulf War syndrome. An internal investigation by the MoD into why a Department of Health memo warning of the dangers was not discovered by ministers until May this year has failed to fix any blame. Next month MPs will be told that no disciplinary action is to be taken against any individuals.

Tory ministers approved the multiple vaccine programme to protect troops from anthrax, bubonic plague and other biological warfare germs. They were also given pertussis, or whooping cough, vaccine.

The Department of Health, however, had sent a memo to the MoD in 1990, warning that research had shown that mice given anthrax and whooping cough vaccines had suffered "serious loss of condition and weight". The memo was seen by officials, but not by ministers.

Although suspicions finally focused on one senior civil servant, MoD sources said yesterday that no action was being taken against individuals and the matter was closed. Tony Flint, of the National Gulf Veterans and Families Association, said: "I think the MoD is covering up. They either can't find someone to blame, or they don't want to because the official is a senior civil servant."

MoD sources said they could not establish precisely what happened after they received the warning. "This event occurred at a time of great crisis and fog of war," said one.



William Hague: under fire from the old guard

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Crash inquiry may be delayed until next year

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

A PUBLIC inquiry into the train crash that killed six people on Friday could be delayed until next year while safety and police investigations are completed. But John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, has asked to be told immediately if investigations reveal any failings that need to be rectified ahead of a formal report or public inquiry.

Six passengers remained seriously ill in hospital last night. Cranes yesterday removed wrecked carriages from the scene of the accident at Southall, west London, and the operation to repair the badly damaged lines continued round-the-clock.

The crash happened when the InterCity service from Swansea to London crashed into an empty freight train that was crossing its path on its way into railway sidings. The InterCity driver, who comes from London, was questioned within hours of the accident and released on police bail.

Mr Prescott said that any urgent problems uncovered by the investigations would be tackled immediately. Police and the Health and Safety Executive spent the weekend examining computer records of trackside signals. Officials at Railtrack, the track and signalling company which is conducting its own inquiry, said that initial investigations had ruled out track damage as a cause of the accident. It had also been established that the freight train involved in the crash had been correctly guided across the high-speed line.

Trackside signalling information relayed to the driver of the passenger train will be crucial in determining whether equipment fault or driver error was the main cause of the accident.

The Health and Safety Executive will this week give details of the scope of the public inquiry. It has begun an initial investigation, but the public inquiry could be delayed until well into next year.



Clive Brain, who died in first-class carriage

if police press manslaughter charges against the driver of the passenger train. A spokesman for the Health and Safety Executive said that the public inquiry "would not prejudice any prosecution action". Manslaughter charges against a driver of a train that crashed last year at Watford Junction will not be heard until next year.

Safety investigators will also seek evidence from passengers about the number of people on the 10.32am train. Train companies operating commuter routes in southeast England are subject to heavy fines if they exceed limits on the percentage of passengers who have to stand but the rules do not apply to InterCity services.

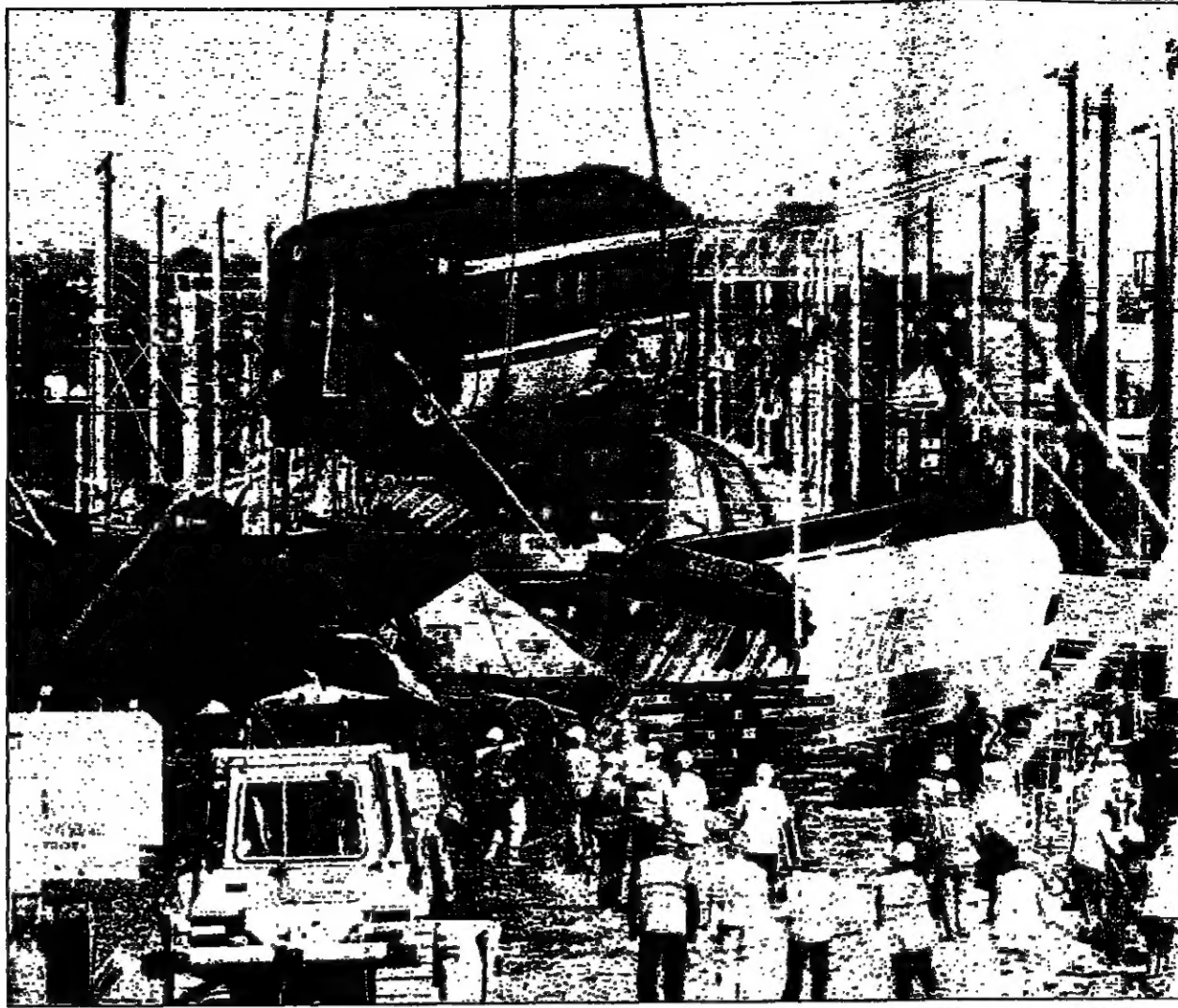
Survivors of Friday's crash, in which 170 were injured, reported packed carriages with large numbers of people standing although Great Western said that the train was not filled to capacity.

The wife of one of those killed said yesterday that her husband rarely travelled first-class, the section that bore the brunt of the impact. Clive Brain, 57, was principal of Swindon College, Wiltshire. His wife, Gill, a college principal in Salisbury, said: "For a long time we would laugh about business people going

first-class and how we were saving the college money by going second-class. But recently he had found it difficult to work in second-class."

The five other passengers killed were: Peter Kavanagh, 30, a lawyer from Laidon, Essex; Anthony Petch, 52, a company director from Thornbury, near Bristol; Marcus Olander, 60, a radio journalist from Sweden; Gerard Traynor, 38, a leisure and tourism officer from Boleyn; David Eustace, 53, a former army officer from Deal, Kent.

A consultant surgeon badly injured in the crash may not lose the sight of his right eye, as was first feared. Michael Helliwell, 55, was in the first-class carriage. Mark Purcell, a spokesman for Ealing Hospital, said: "We can't say 100 per cent but his sight has been better in the past 24 hours."



Cranes were brought in to move carriages yesterday as part of the round-the-clock operation to clear the line

ITV chief gives hint on News at Ten move

By RAYMOND SNOODY, MEDIA EDITOR

THE new heads of ITV and Channel 4 yesterday promised radical changes for viewers. David Liddiment, who took over as director of the ITV network last Monday, told the Royal Television Society's biennial convention in Cambridge that he had to be sure that "every part of the ITV schedule is as commercial as everything else".

This is regarded as code for the growing belief in ITV that *News at Ten* should be moved. Because of the 9pm watershed for more adult viewing, *News at Ten* interrupts many films and dramas.

Mr Liddiment also hinted that he may ask ITV companies for more money to reverse a loss of viewing share to the BBC, cable and satellite.

Michael Jackson, the recently appointed successor to Michael Grade as chief executive of Channel 4, promised "more drama, more film on Four, a decrease in the number of acquisitions and more programmes of ambition".

HOW CRASH AFFECTS YOUR JOURNEY

No Great Western or Thames Trains services will operate from Paddington today. Passengers using the two services — to the West Country, South Wales and the Midlands — should travel to Reading from Waterloo before changing to their normal trains. Passengers who normally travel into Pad-

dington on the two services are advised to change at Reading and continue their journey to Waterloo. South West Trains, operating out of Waterloo, will provide extra services to cope with the increase in demand. Paddington services are expected to return almost to normal tomorrow.

L'Art de l'Assemblage

by Baron Philippe de Rothschild

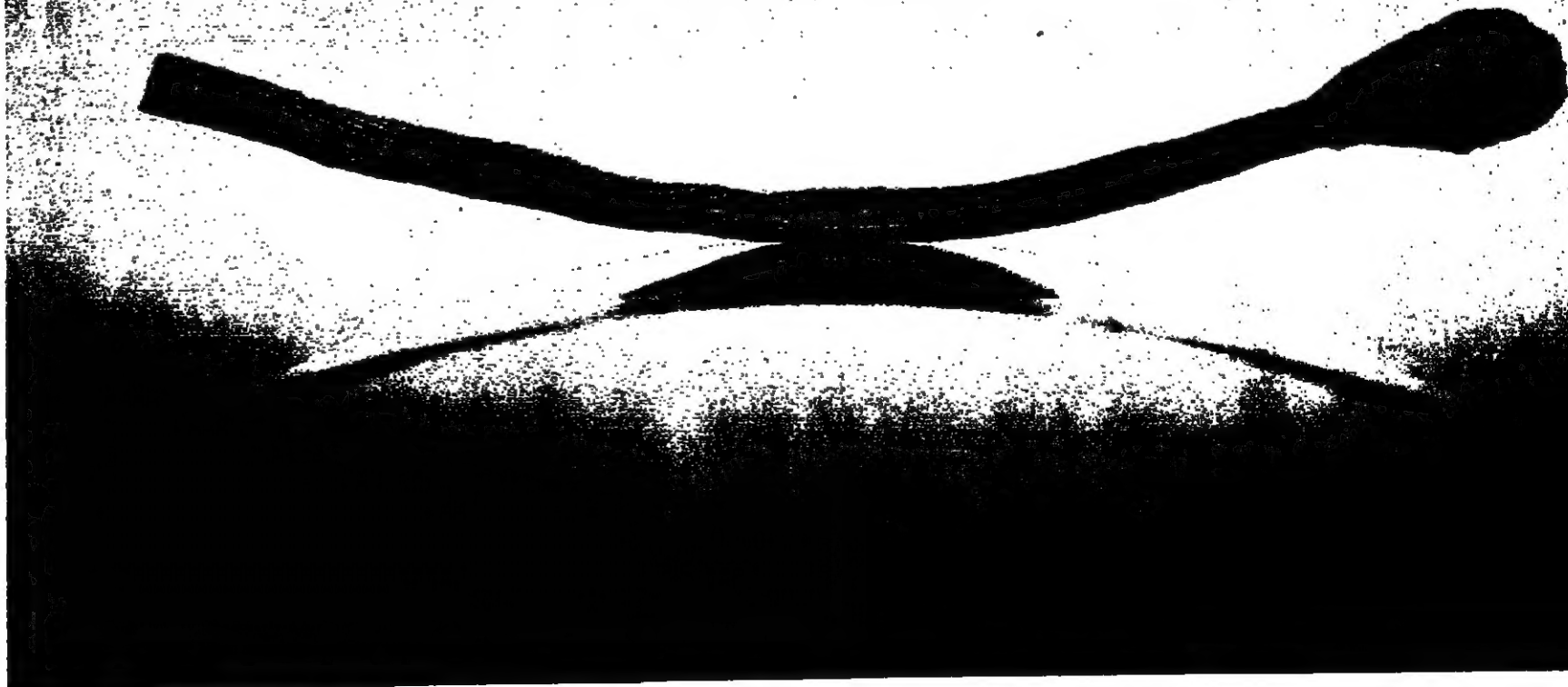


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Georges Bizet and Jean Sibelius: compositions topped the Radio 2 favourites

Football theme leaps up chart of favourite classics

CLASSIC tunes popularised by football, weddings and the tastes of Diana, Princess of Wales have arrived among the upper reaches of Radio 2 listeners' classical favourites. However, staff on *Your Hundred Best Tunes*, which is hosted by Alan Keith, at 89 the oldest network broadcaster in Britain, say their listeners are unlikely to be influenced by the rise of compilation CDs, and the use of classical music for sport and commercials.

The Ode To Joy, from Beethoven's Choral Symphony, has entered the top ten at number five. In the third poll of listeners to the Sunday night show *Your Hundred Best Tunes*, which has been running for 38 years, the piece was used last year as the television theme tune for the Euro 96 football championship. Handel's *Water Music*, often played at weddings these days, was the third most popular tune. In 1993, when the last poll was conducted, it was number 90.

Holst's suite, *The Planets*, had its highest-ever entry at number nine. The hymn *I Vow To Thee My Country*, which is set to the music of *Jupiter*, was a favourite of Diana, Princess

A Radio 2 list shows how tastes can be swayed by events, writes

Carol Midgley

of Wales and was sung at her funeral as well as her wedding.

However, this year's poll was again topped by the tune that was also the listeners' favourite in 1993 and 1994 — the duet for tenor and baritone *Aux Fouds du Temple* (from *The Pearl Fishers*).

Maura Clarke, the programme's producer, said: "The listeners are very committed, very traditional and really know their stuff about classical music. They are extremely knowledgeable about music, and many were introduced to the programme via their families when they were young."

"To be honest, I think a lot of them might think a compila-

tion CD was a bit vulgar. We get stacks of letters every week and you do get the impression the audience are of a generation we will never have again. Having said that, we get letters from people as young as 25 sending in their top 100 tunes."

The programme is playing items from the list in groups of ten each week, culminating on October 26 with the top ten. Ms Clarke added: "The list is very much what we would expect, although Alan was a bit surprised by the inclusion of the little parlour song *Eleanor* (by Samuel Coleridge-Taylor) which came in at number 61."

Mr Keith does not underestimate his audience. "I don't play down to my listeners," he has said. "I'm not afraid to use a three-syllable word. I will introduce pieces that don't normally come into the realm of popular classics."

His fans are among the BBC's most loyal listeners. One wrote to say: "Winston Churchill said when he got to Heaven he would spend the first million years painting. I'd like to spend the first million years listening to *Your Hundred Best Tunes*."

The 1997 poll. Your Hundred Best Tunes

1 In the Depths of the Temple, duet from Bizet's <i>The Pearl Fishers</i>	53 An die Musik, Schubert
2 Finlandia, Sibelius	54 Overture, Rossini's <i>William Tell</i>
3 Handel's <i>Water Music</i>	55 Gloire Immortelle (The Soldiers' Chorus), Gounod
4 Rusalka's Song to the Moon, from Rusalka, Dvorak	56 Jerusalem, Parry
5 Ode to Joy, from Beethoven's Symphony No 9 (the Choral)	57 Londonderry Air, trad
6 Adagio, from Elgar's Cello Concerto	58 Overture, Rossini's <i>The Thieving Magpie</i>
7 The Nuns' Chorus from Casanova, J Strauss II	59 Eleanor, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor
8 Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No 2 in C minor	60 6 mio Tesoro, from Mozart's <i>Don Giovanni</i>
9 The Planets, Holst	61 Vesti la Giubba, from Leoncavallo's <i>Pagliacci</i>
10 I Know That My Redeemer Liveth from Handel's <i>Messiah</i>	62 In a Monastery Garden, Kettleby
11 Old Country Meads, Teale	63 None but the Lonely Heart, Tchaikovsky
12 Adagio from Bruch's Violin Concerto No 1 in G minor	64 Largo Al Factotum from Rossini's <i>The Barber of Seville</i>
13 Pans Angelicus, César Franck	65 Vilja from Lehár's <i>Merry Widow</i>
14 Adagio for Strings, Samuel Barber	66 Zadok the Priest, Handel
15 Love duet from Madama Butterfly, Puccini	67 Barcarole from the Tales of Hoffmann, Offenbach
16 Nino's Lullaby from Elgar's <i>Enigma Variations</i>	68 Lucia's Mad Scene from Donizetti's <i>Lucia di Lammermoor</i>
17 Handel's Largo (Ombra del Fu), from <i>Serse</i>	69 The Humming Chorus from Puccini's <i>Madame Butterfly</i>
18 Ballad from Camille Saint-Saëns's <i>Songs of the Auvergne</i>	70 Intermzzo from Lalo's Cello Concerto
19 Rondo from Mozart's Horn Concerto No 4	71 A Te, O Cara from Bellini's <i>I Puritani</i>
20 Serenade from Schubert's German Mass	72 Romance from Chopin's Piano Concerto No 1 in E Minor
21 Walton's Coronation March, Crown Imperial	73 Wine, Women and Song Waltz, Johann Strauss II
22 The Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves from Verdi's <i>Nabucco</i>	74 Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsody No 3 in D major
23 Intermzzo from Mascagni's <i>Cavalleria Rusticana</i>	75 The Heavens are Telling from Haydn's <i>The Creation</i>
24 Beethoven's Piano Concerto No 5 in E flat (the Emperor)	76 When I am Laid in Earth from Purcell's <i>Dido and Aeneas</i>
25 Andante from Mozart's Piano Concerto No 21 in C (K467)	77 Don't Be Cross from the Master Miner, Zeller
26 Grand March from Verdi's <i>Aida</i>	78 Standchen, Schubert
27 Beethoven's Symphony No 6 (the Pastoral) final movement	79 Low Duet from Puccini's <i>Tosca</i>
28 Ave Verum corpus, Mozart	80 Leaning, Stendhal Bennett
29 Romance from the Gypsy, Shostakovich	81 Gebet, Schubert
30 What is Life? from Gluck's <i>Orfeo ed Euridice</i>	82 Variations on a theme by Haydn, Brahms
31 Pomp and Circumstance March No 1, Elgar	83 Jesu, Joy of Mans' Desiring from Bach's <i>Cantata No 147</i>
32 Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's <i>Messiah</i>	84 Ballet Music from Gounod's <i>Faust</i>
33 Mozart's Clarinet Concerto (K622)	85 Reinecke's Harp Concerto
34 The Holy City, Stephen Adams	86 Overture from Handel's <i>Bernice</i>
35 The Watermill, Ronald Binge	87 Che Gelida Manina from Puccini's <i>La Bohème</i>
36 Largo from Dvorak's <i>Symphony No 9 (From the New World)</i>	88 Saint-Saëns's Violin Concerto No 3 in B minor
37 The Creed, Gregorian	89 Intermzzo, from Puccini's <i>Manon Lescaut</i>
38 The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba from Handel's <i>Solomon</i>	90 Trumpet Voluntary, Jeremiah Clarke
39 Meditation from Massenet's <i>Thaïs</i>	91 Bach's Cantata No 140 (Wachet auf
40 Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto	92 Agnus Dei from Mozart's Coronation Mass
41 Creation's Hymn, Beethoven	93 Andante from Elgar's Harp Concerto in C
42 Listen to the Mockingbird, Alice Hawthorne	94 Wedding Cake, Saint-Saëns
43 Ave Maria, Schubert	95 Toccata from The Gothic Suite, Boettmann
44 Hungarian Dance No 6 in D, Brahms	96 Castania, Joachim Raff
45 The Bridal Chorus from Wagner's <i>Lohengrin</i>	97 Serenade, Horstatter
46 All in the April Evening, Robertson	98 Bellini's Oboe Concerto in E Flat Major
47 Gull's Pear Gull	
48 How Lovely is thy Dwelling Place from Brahms's <i>German Requiem</i>	
49 Mori Coror, Souvise a la Voix from Samson et Dalila, Saint-Saëns	
50 Mozart's Flute and Harp Concerto (K299)	
51 Necessa Dams, from Puccini's <i>Turandot</i>	
52 Fachel's Canon in D	
53 The Easter Hymn from Mascagni's <i>Cavalleria Rusticana</i>	
54 March from Sibelius's <i>Kärelle suite</i>	

1993 Poll	1984 Poll
1 In the Depths of the Temple, duet from Bizet's <i>The Pearl Fishers</i>	1 In the Depths of the Temple, duet from Bizet's <i>The Pearl Fishers</i>
2 Finlandia, Sibelius	2 The Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves, Verdi
3 Adagio from Bruch's Violin Concerto No 1	3 Allegro Moderato, Bruch's Violin Concerto No 1
4 The Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves, Verdi	4 Pachelbel's Canon in D
5 Nino's Lullaby from Elgar's <i>Enigma Variations</i>	5 Beethoven's Symphony No 6 (the Pastoral)
6 Beethoven's Symphony No 6 (the Pastoral), final movement	6 Andante, Mozart's Piano

Dolly takes a step down family way

By Andrew Pierce

SCIENTISTS who created Dolly the sheep, the world's first animal cloned from an adult cell, are hoping to mate it with a ram of the same breed.

Dolly is undergoing fertility tests at the Roslin Institute near Edinburgh and the search has begun for a suitable mate. The institute, the main British centre for research on farm animal genetics, is confident that Dolly will be able to have a natural birth.

Professor Graham Bulfield, director and chief executive of the institute, said that staff were seeking a mate from the same Finn Dorset breed. "It took eight to ten years to get to the Dolly stage," he said. "We had 3,000 calls from all around the world in the first two days of Dolly entering the stage. I am sure the next stage will be an equal success."

The institute's hopes of a productive union have been boosted by the birth earlier this year of lambs to Megan and Moran sheep that were cloned a year before Dolly from embryo cells.

But before Dolly can be subjected to the rigours of mating and parenthood it faces an austere dietary regime. Its weight has ballooned to about 45 kg because so many visitors bring gifts, particularly photographers.

Professor Bulfield said that Dolly thrived on media attention. "Dolly loves fuss and

attention, and performs for the cameras. She enjoys her star status."

The result is a temporary banishment by day to a nearby hillside far from public view. However, by night Dolly is back in a secure pen because of the threat of roving dogs to the world's most valuable sheep.

Geneticists at the institute have a further problem: Dolly's age. The sheep was born 14 months ago but the mammary tissue used to clone it was from a six-year-old ewe. "Is Dolly seven or is she 14 months?" the Professor said. The fertility tests could help to answer the question.

The institute has yet to decide whether to let Dolly and its mate breed in the conventional way or whether to use artificial insemination.



Dolly: scientists are seeking suitable mate

Scientists discover contraceptive worm

By Nick Nuttall, Technology Correspondent

A TAPE worm that lives in fish may offer the key to an effective male contraceptive pill for humans.

Scientists studying *Ligula intestinalis*, which spends part of its life in fish such as roach, have found that it has an impact on the reproductive system. Professor Chris Arme of Keele University said yesterday: "It's a tape worm contraceptive."

The worm can have similar effects on roach. Professor

Arme, based at the university's centre for applied entomology and parasitology, said that the hormone systems of fish through to mammals operate similarly. "So if we can pinpoint the substance in the worm... the significance of a novel method for controlling reproduction in higher vertebrates, including humans, is clear."

Researchers are now hoping to isolate the contraceptive substance.

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Health experts order inquiry into MDF risk

AN INQUIRY has been launched into the possible health hazards of medium-density fibreboard, after claims that it could be the "asbestos of the Nineties".

The popularity of the wood substitute has grown quickly since its introduction in Britain in 1980, but critics believe that it may carry a cancer risk because of the fine dust that it produces and the formaldehyde used in its production.

The two-year study, funded by the Health and Safety Executive, will be conducted by Andrew Watterson, director of the Centre for Occupational Health at De Montfort University, Leicester. He said: "I believe we have significantly underestimated the potential risk of MDF in Britain."

There is evidence that formaldehyde-exposed workers have high rates of lung cancer and nose and throat cancer. The simple fact is that we do not know what the long-term effects of MDF are. My advice is that if safer alternatives are available, then you should use them where possible."

Critics claim that popular building material could be the asbestos of the Nineties, reports Lin Jenkins

MDF is made from wood dust and scrap, bonded together by a resin containing formaldehyde. Last year more than 600,000 cubic metres were sold in Britain and it is expected that nearly a million cubic metres a year will be sold by the end of the decade.

The particles released when it is cut or sanded are smaller than those of wood, and can be inhaled deep into the lungs. They are too small to be caught in most dust masks or collected by vacuum cleaners. Formaldehyde is considered by the World Health Organisation's International Agency for Research on Cancer to be "probably carcinogenic" to humans.

Carpenters and builders have already expressed concern. At the TUC conference earlier this month, the entertainment union Bectu, whose

members use the material for film and theatre sets, called for tighter safety procedures.

Roy Lockert, deputy general secretary of Bectu, said: "MDF is the asbestos of the Nineties. It is carcinogenic, it causes lesions, it damages the eyes, the skin, the lungs and the heart. It is vile and pernicious."

His claims are largely unsubstantiated, but the construction industry is calling for better protection for workers and for safer substances to be used where possible. Builders in California, mindful of expensive law suits, tell homebuyers that formaldehyde may cause cancer and birth defects.

The GMB union is seeking a big cut in the legal limit of exposure to formaldehyde. The British limit is 20 times above that in Germany and

Sweden and seven times above that of America.

It has been suggested that small amounts of gases are released from MDF furniture and that these may cause illness. Rory O'Neill, editor of *Hazards* magazine, believes the potential risk makes MDF too dangerous for people to use in their own homes. "Like asbestos, MDF is promoted as a wonder product, but it is undoubtedly a dangerous substance."

The Wood Panel Industries Federation said that the critics were alarmist and their fears were unfounded. "MDF has nothing in common with asbestos," a federation spokesman said.

The Health and Safety Executive said funding for the study had been granted because little was known about the potential hazards of MDF. "There is no reliable research. At present there is no evidence to suggest it poses a risk and can be compared to other risks like asbestos. Some of the claims being made in the US are quite outrageous," a spokeswoman said.

Academy veteran tries to halt show

By Philip Davies
Broughton

THE Royal Academy's longest-serving member, the sculptor Arnold Machin, is trying to rally fellow academicians to close *Sensation*, the exhibition of work by young British artists from the Charles Saatchi collection.

Yesterday Mr Machin, 85, a member of the academy for more than 50 years, called the exhibition pornographic and disgusting and said the academy's administrators were soundbored.

He was particularly sympathetic to the disgust expressed by Winnie Johnson, 64, the mother of one of the children killed by Myra Hindley, the Moors murderer whose portrait made up of hundreds of children's handprints had to be withdrawn after it was attacked with ink and eggs last week.

"If I can collect 12 other academicians, I can call an assembly and maybe we can stop the show," he said.



Arnold Machin: wants to call an assembly of the academy to close *Sensation*



Whelan, Lee and Channon: successful off the pitch

Footballers are winners, even after the game

By Alexandra Frean, Social Affairs Correspondent

AFTER hanging up their boots, professional footballers play the long retirement game better than those who have slogged away in more conventional fields of employment.

Contrary to the popular perception of soccer stars growing fat and frustrated behind the bars of their country pubs, they continue to feel like winners by living contentedly on their past glories, according to new research.

Immediately after retiring, footballers frequently experience periods of depression, combined with financial and emotional insecurity. However, they are better placed to start a new life than those used to suits, according to an Open University study. The

Football... 27, 32-33

key to their survival lies in their ability to draw inner strength from their enduring memories of their careers on the pitch, says Brian Gearing, a senior lecturer from the OU's School of Health and Social Welfare. He spent a year interviewing top footballers as well as the Northampton Town squad of the 1960s.

The average length of a footballer's playing career is only eight and a half years and footballers are faced with having to accept that an important part of their life — for many the most important chapter of their lives — is over at an early age. Mr Gearing told the British Society of Gerontology's annual conference in Bristol yesterday.

"I found that former players don't live in the past, but

draw strength from it. They retain a 'football identity' through their memories and those of fans, through the occasional magazine article or commemorative programme, maybe the occasional bit of coaching, and this seems to be a positive factor as they age."

A handful of high-profile footballers, such as Gary Lineker and Alan Hansen, become media pundits when their playing careers are over, many others stay on as coaches or managers, but most are forced to find jobs outside the profession.

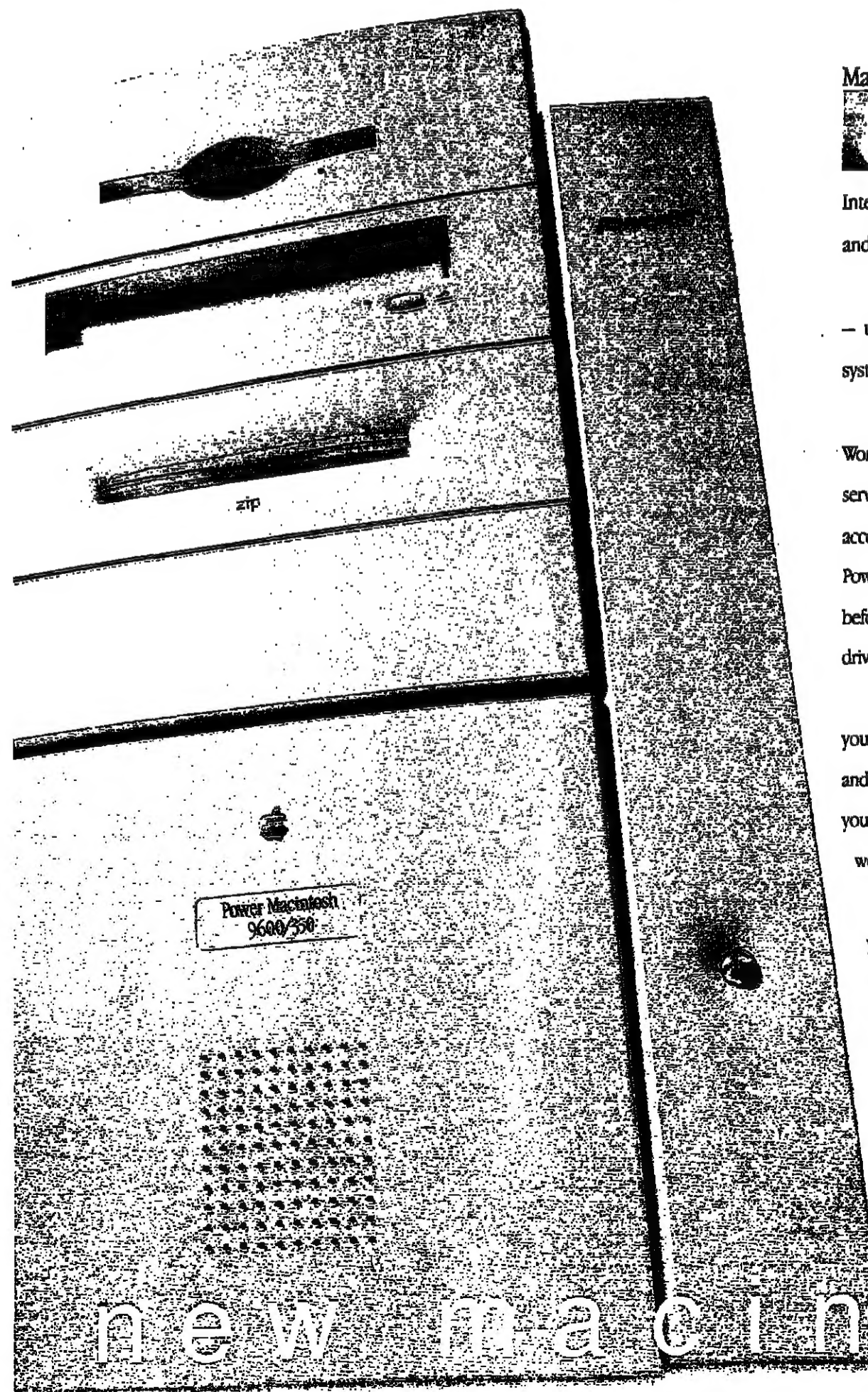
Francis Lee, a former England player and now chairman of Manchester City, became a millionaire after setting up a paper products company which he later sold.

David Whelan, who played for Blackburn Rovers in the Sixties, has a successful sports shop chain, JJB Sports. Mike Channon, who won 46 caps for England, is now a successful racehorse trainer.

Not all footballers, however, enjoy such sunny retirement. Ken Leek, a former Northampton player, left the game to work in a Ford factory. He said: "You've really got to set your mind to say, 'That's what I'm going to do' and swallow your pride and get on with it."

After the Arsenal striker Charlie George quit the game, his marriage fell apart, he lost his pub in Hampshire, liquidated his garage business and spent time showing visitors around Arsenal's ground. Peter Storey, with whom he played, was convicted of fraud, as was Manchester United's Mickey Thomas.

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Only New Macintosh could be this new

By POLLY NEWTON, POLITICAL REPORTER

The scheme has been championed by the Liberal Democrat spokesman on women's issues, Jackie Ballard, MP for Taunton. But some party members dismiss it as little more than a sop for activists and the media. One said: "It suggests that the only problem is finance — that you can say to women candidates, 'Go out

Yesterday WLD, which has moved two of the motions for



EUTHANASIA: After past debates on the decriminalisation of cannabis and on the monarchy, this year's off-beat discussion is a voluntary euthanasia. Sir Ludovic Kennedy, the writer and broadcaster, will call for the Commission to investigate the issue. It argued that doctors should be allowed to help terminally ill patients to die, instead of doing so in secret (9.30am).

EUROPE
Menzies C
affairs spe
David Hea
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the Amsterdam treaty, pro
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urge the Government to us
presidency of the Europea
take forward reform of EU
(10.30am).

members, Ms B Maddock, and A party can "make Westminster, an

rather than giving the delegates a spirited send-off with songs, as do Labour and the Tories, the Lib Dems will hold a low-key session; our leading women party leader, Emma Nicholson, Diana a Khan tell delegates how the difference" in local government, Europe."

100

... ..

DAVID STEEL was vigorously defended by Paddy Ashdown last night over the disclosure that as an MP he was paid more than £90,000 to campaign for the pro-hunting lobby.

Some Liberal Democrats criticised their former party leader for going against the spirit of party policy, and the League Against Cruel Sports accused him of taking a huge salary for a "sleazy job".

Lord Steel of Aikwood, who became a peer after retiring as an MP at the general election, received £93,752 for working up to two days a week as part-time chairman of the Countryside Movement, one of the organisations that held the mass pro-hunting rally in London this summer. He declared the job in the Register of Members' Interests, but said the fee he had taken since October 1995 - the end of March this year - Under parliamentary rules, he did not have to declare the fee.

Yesterday Mr Ashdown said that Lord Steel had done nothing wrong and had not gone against party policy. Although most Liberal Democrat MPs, including Mr Ashdown, oppose fox-hunting, the party leader made clear that it was a "conscience

issue". He told the BBC programme *Breakfast With Frost*: "It was out in the open. It was in the register of interests. It was neither wrong, nor was it secret, nor was it kept from the party membership, nor was it kept from the wider public. He

The headline report of this story by BBC news this morning was also blatantly defam-

...to organise the pro-hunting rally in London, at which Lord Steel spoke.

Mr Ashdown and his wife, Jane, at their hotel yesterday. Critics say his circle of advisers is a woman-free zone

Leading article, page 23

**Want
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The stamps were speedily prepared but Earl Spencer is said to have thought that the tribute was premature

Earl urged to lift ban on Princess stamps

By TIM JONES

EARL SPENCER was under increasing pressure last night to drop his veto on the Royal Mail issuing commemorative stamps of Diana, Princess of Wales.

The Queen, Tony Blair and the Department of Trade and Industry have given their backing to having the special stamps issued quickly as a simple and affordable official tribute to the Princess.

A Royal Mail spokesman confirmed that the issue had been postponed because of the earl's objection. He said: "The proposal has not been abandoned. It is on hold."

"We had the backing of Buckingham Palace, No 10 Downing Street and the Department of Trade and Industry, but it was opposed by Earl Spencer. Apparently the earl thought it was premature, and has put a moratorium on memorial activities for Diana."

Senior officials of the Royal Mail were so confident that their plans would be approved for the five 26p stamps to go on sale last Thursday that they sent advance pictures to some leading collectors. They had

BBC RETHINKS ROYAL FUNERALS

By RAYMOND SNODDY

The BBC is reassessing its coverage of royal funerals. It is certain that the broadcast of the funeral of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother will be very different from that of the Princess.

Philip Gilbert, head of BBC Outside Broadcasting, said at the Royal Television Society's convention at the weekend that, with the death of older members of the Royal Family, "you are celebrating that life, not expecting the world to go into deep, deep mourning". Alan Yentob, BBC Director of Television,

also printed the five stamps and had arranged for them to be reproduced in a special supplement to their publication, the *British Philatelic Bulletin*.

The stamps, which it is thought would have sold in hundreds of millions, feature

said the main aim with future deaths would be to "understand the moment" and react in an appropriate way to the circumstances of each death. The BBC also pointed out that its 24-hour cable and satellite news service would also change the nature of its coverage.

Research showed 73 per cent of the public thought the BBC's television coverage of the death was appropriate, and 92 per cent for radio. At the convention in Cambridge, broadcasters agreed that their coverage had been responding to public reaction, rather than creating it.

pictures of the Princess taken by the Earl of Snowdon, Tim Graham, Terence Donovan and John Stillwell, of the Press Association.

Yesterday Peter Jennings, a leading collector who writes about stamps, said: "I have seen the stamps and they

would be a wonderful and lasting tribute to the Princess. I appeal to Earl Spencer and his family to allow the Royal Mail to issue them in the near future."

"Postage stamps would make a wonderful and lasting tribute to the Princess and would be collected by philatelists and non-stamp collectors throughout the world for years to come."

Mr Jennings said he understood that, on September 1, the day after the Paris road crash in which the Princess was fatally injured, the Royal Mail had requested the Department of Trade and Industry to approach Buckingham Palace for permission to issue commemorative stamps. He said that work began immediately on designs for them and a first-day cover.

He added: "So certain were they that the stamps would be issued that the Royal Mail printed a special one-page insert for the *British Philatelic Bulletin*, which included reproductions of the new stamps in colour."

It was intended that the covers would receive a Kensington postmark as the Princess had lived at Kensington

Palace, from where her funeral procession started.

Dealers have reported a tenfold increase in sales of existing stamps bearing portraits of the Princess. She appeared on only one British set, when she was featured with the Prince of Wales on stamps issued to mark their marriage in 1981. But countries across the world issued stamps in 1982 to celebrate her 21st birthday and the birth of Prince William.

Special stamp issues usually take months or years to devel-

op, although an exception was made after the death of Sir Winston Churchill, when a set went on sale a few months after his death.

In Britain, no living person outside the Royal Family may appear on a postage stamp. A set marking the golden wedding anniversary in November of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh is being prepared.

The public books of condolence opened after the death of the Princess were closed yesterday. Tens of thousands of

people have left messages of sympathy.

More than 30 books had been kept available day and night at Kensington Palace since the funeral. Before that, up to 43 were available at St James's Palace after the original small number proved inadequate.

At some stages people were queuing for up to 12 hours overnight at St James's to sign the books.

Buckingham Palace is expected to offer them to the Spencer family.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Nearly 25 a year die in police accidents

Nearly 100 people are estimated to have died and up to 1,576 were seriously injured in accidents involving police vehicles in the four years to 1995, according to a Home Office study.

The study found that 45 per cent of people died while pursued by police, 23 per cent when officers were answering emergency calls, 20 per cent when police were on duty and 8 per cent in training exercises. Most of the drivers who died in crashes lost control of their cars and hit a tree or wall.

Toad site saved

A campaign to save one of the most important sites for the common toad, frogs and newts is to be backed by Michael Meacher, the Environment Minister. English Nature has been told to reach agreement with Justin Hammer, a farmer who had wanted to plough up part of Offham Marshes in East Sussex.

Torture charge

A doctor is to be charged with maltreating detainees while he worked in an alleged torture centre in Sudan in 1990. Muhammad Mahgoub, 38, who has been released on bail, is expected to appear at the High Court in Dundee early next year. Until June he worked as a researcher in the city's Ninewells hospital.

Triumph recall

The motorcycle maker Triumph recalled hundreds of new models after faults were found in the welding of the frames. The faults, in the 1995 Daytona and T509 Speed Triple, were in bikes made in the first six weeks of production at Triumph's new £80 million factory in Hinckley, Leicestershire.

Help for snorers

A helpline has been launched to help people with chronic snoring and their long-suffering partners. Callers can speak to nurses about coping with the problem and obtain information on treatment. The service, which coincides with the start of No Snoring Week, can be contacted on 0870 603 4444.

Conker shortage

A shortage of conkers caused by drought and late frosts is threatening to undermine the annual World Conker Championships in Ashton, Northamptonshire. John Hadman, the organiser, said officials would have to spread their net wider to find the 1,500 top-quality horse chestnuts they need on October 12.

Cab convoy takes children to pay tribute at crash scene

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

A CONVOY of 66 London taxis, carrying sick children from hospitals often visited by the Princess, wound through Paris yesterday to lay flowers at the site of the car crash in which she was fatally wounded.

The 126 children put a taxi-shaped wreath at the Flame of Liberty at the Pont de l'Alma, above the underpass where the accident happened on August 31. Since then the monument, a replica of the flame on New York's Statue of Liberty, has become a shrine to the Princess and hundreds of mourners come every day to lay flowers or stand in silence.

The fleet of cabs made a detour into the French capital at the children's request after taking them to Disneyland Paris, a trip organised for each of the past four years. "It's the children's weekend and they asked to pay a tribute at this location. We felt it right to respect their wishes," Phillip Davies,

master of the Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers, said.

Michelle Smith was on the trip with her daughter Sarah, 7, who has cerebral palsy and is undergoing treatment at Basilston Hospital in Essex. "The Princess meant a lot to all of us," Mrs Smith said. "In many ways it is a very sad day. She did such a lot."

Traffic around the bridge ground to a halt as the cabs, accompanied by a motorcycle escort, an ambulance and police, stopped at the scene for a half-hour visit. Afterwards, the convoy left with horns blaring in an expression of thanks to the police who had cleared a route for them out of the city.

Steve Sanders, the driver who organised the trip to Disneyland, said that it would be repeated in future years. "We at the Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers are delighted to organise this event and look forward to doing so for many years to come," Mr Sanders said.

He described the visit to the Pont de l'Alma as an emotional and important moment for children and drivers. "Princess Diana was a regular visitor to the patients at Great Ormond Street and the children from the hospital were particularly anxious to pay their last respects."

Investigators are expected to conduct a second interview this week with Trevor Rees-Jones, the sole survivor of the crash. A brief first interview with the injured bodyguard, who is suffering partial amnesia as a result of trauma and heavy doses of anaesthetic, yielded little material evidence because he can remember nothing about the circumstances of the accident.

Police sources said yesterday that Hervé Stéphan, one of two magistrates leading the investigation, had not given up hope that Mr Rees-Jones would recover sufficient memory to shed light on the moments before the crash.



Amelia Sands, 7, laying the cab-shaped wreath in Paris yesterday

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Party bosses target the 'enemy within' as pre-election nerves fray

How deep have we sunk? The question was posed by a letter writer to the *Süddeutsche Zeitung*. She was complaining about the offhand treatment by Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, of the widely admired former President, Richard von Weizsäcker.

Herr von Weizsäcker belonged to the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) of Herr Kohl, although his membership was allowed to lapse during his ten years as head of state. Now Herr von Weizsäcker has published memoirs mildly critical of the Chancellor. Herr Kohl has hit back, telling party friends

INSIDE GERMANY



BY ROGER BOYES

that, in the idiom of Margaret Thatcher, the former President is "not one of us" and is ungrateful to the party that had nourished his career.

Evidently the idea that one owes the party a debt of gratitude did not die out with Enver Hoxha, the late Albanian dictator. The Chancellor is known to have a talent for gratuitous insults. But this insistence on blind loyalty defines the present mood. Across the party spectrum, there is pressure to close ranks and keep discipline — this a full year to go before the general election.

Against all odds, the Social Democrats are more successful than the CDU at muzzling internal dissent. But there is also a certain harshness of voice, a raw climate. The party, out of power since 1982,

can ill afford to lose another election.

Günter Grass, Germany's most influential novelist, says he will go on the stump for a Social Democrat-Green coalition government. His aim is to drum up the kind of intellectual partisanship witnessed during the Blair election campaign and it is a clever enough move; the smallest of Volkswagens could serve as a campaign bus for a group calling itself Writers for Kohl. The surprising feature of Herr Grass's declaration is not his politics — he is a veteran Social Democrat — but the crudity of their expression. The writer

accused by name the head of a bank and the boss of the employers' federation of being the new "socialists", a word signifying social parasite that was used by Nazi propaganda. "They drive in Mercedes, so they're not exactly like the tramps in the street who were previously regarded as social."

The writer said: "They drop out of society in quite a different way, in the sense they are trying to wreck the social consensus. A rich country is tolerating huge numbers of unemployed, despite the clear warning of 1932 when we had

six million out of work and had to live with the consequences."

Herr Grass does get things wrong — he was dumbfounded by unification — and is as choleric as Herr Kohl. But his rough tongue is typical of both the political and writing classes: they are behaving as if they are stuck in an airless, crowded, slow-moving bus. In many ways, they are. The poison at the top contrasts with a more general, subjective observation: that ordinary Germans have become slightly more polite. Certainly it is a long time since I was barged in the supermarket or told to look lively at the cash

desk. Herr Grass's favourite for the chancellorship is Oskar Lafontaine, the chairman of the Social Democrats.

He has also told friends that Herr Lafontaine is more likely than Gerhard Schröder to be his challenger next year. The reasoning is clear. Only a Red-Green alliance, probably with the support of the former communist PDS party, can topple Herr Kohl. Only Herr Lafontaine, an undogmatic left-winger, is acceptable to such a line-up.

Herr Schröder — tough on crime, on welfare spongers and on the euro, is learning

too far to the right. For the moment, the two are marching in tandem (they have not yet agreed who is supposed to be Tony Blair and who Gordon Brown) and are pushing through an economic programme which hobbles several of the party's holy cows. Party discipline is holding, however, enforced with the sensitive mien of drill sergeants.

This autumn's party congresses are being carefully choreographed. Next spring will be the dissident season. Until then, the party faithful are ready to be rounded up by the snapping sheepdogs of their party leaders.

French bishops 'repent' wartime silence on Jews

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

FRENCH bishops will offer a formal "repentance" next week for the Roman Catholic Church's failure to condemn the persecution of Jews during the collaborationist Vichy regime in the Second World War.

The "declaration on the attitude of bishops in the war" will be made at ceremony on the site of the principal Jewish internment camp in France on September 30, 57 years after the Vichy regime passed the first anti-Jewish laws and just days before the trial of Maurice Papon, the ageing French bureaucrat accused of sending hundreds of Jews to their death.

Historians have often accused the Church of failing in its moral duty during the Occupation by not speaking out against legislation discriminating against the Jews. "It is time the Church took responsibility for the sins of its children," Mgr Louis-Marie Billé, president of the French Conference of Bishops, said.

At least 75,000 Jews were deported from France to Nazi death camps. Of these, some 64,000 were held at Drancy in the Paris suburbs, where next week's ceremony will be held,

before being sent on to Auschwitz. Twenty bishops will attend the event, along with leaders of the Jewish community. The formal "mea culpa" will consider the way in which "the negative view of Jews which the Church fostered over the centuries helped to create a fertile terrain in which Nazi ideas could be planted without resistance".

Under laws passed by the Vichy regime in 1940, Jews were barred from professions such as medicine, the law and the civil service, and forbidden to own property. A detailed census of Jews living in France made it easy for the Nazis and French collaborators to carry out deportations.

The bishops' apology to the Jewish community follows guidelines from the Vatican calling on Catholics to make amends for past indifference or intolerance. "The mitigating circumstances do not remove the duty of the Church to express profound regret for the weakness of so many of its children," the Pope said in 1994. The pontiff is expected to make a statement on the wartime attitude of the Church later this year.

M Papon, 87, a former

senior Vichy administrator, is accused of ordering the deportation of 1,560 Jews, including many children, between 1942 and 1944. His trial, which begins in Bordeaux on October 8, is seen by many as the last opportunity to put collaboration by French officials in the dock.

Arno Klarsfeld, the leading French Nazi-hunter who helped to bring the case, has said that while the trial will focus on Vichy it should be remembered that the Nazis were primarily responsible for the Holocaust.

"This trial is to set the record straight... future generations must know that those responsible for the 'final solution' in France were first and foremost Germans who wanted to kill the Jews," M Klarsfeld said.

M Papon's lawyers have summoned numerous witnesses to the trial, including the former President, Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, who promoted M Papon to budget minister, a post he lost after the discovery of his wartime past. "He can call Moses or Jesus Christ to testify: it raises media interest but, in the end, it changes nothing," M Klarsfeld said.

Hamburg sets tough poll test for Kohl

FROM DEBORAH COLLUTT IN FRANKFURT

A REGIONAL election in the German city state of Hamburg yesterday started off a year of balloting that will prove crucial to the chances of Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, of being re-elected when Germans go to the polls next autumn.

Facing one of the toughest periods in his 14-year leadership, Herr Kohl knows only a miracle will wrestle power from the opposition Social Democratic Party, which has ruled Hamburg for the past 40 years, but he will be hoping for more support for his Christian Democratic Union after a disastrous 25 per cent share of the vote in the last election in 1993.

Nothing is likely to topple Henning Voscherau, the Mayor. His re-election has been made easier by an unpopular Chancellor, who has failed to solve economic problems and looks weak in the run-up to several more state and municipal elections before the national polls.

As in Germany's 15 other states, voters in Hamburg are also concerned about Herr Kohl's attempt to replace the mark with a single European currency. Rising crime is another issue that may influence the election in which 1.2 million voters are eligible to choose from a list of 21 parties.



Vuk Draskovic, the Serbian Renewal Movement candidate, kisses a girl after voting

Serb vote boycott is likely to fail

FROM TOM WALKER IN BELGRADE

SERBS went to the polls yesterday, with students and the disaffected middle classes clinging to the slim hope that a boycott might disrupt Socialist rule and help to break the big brother influence of Slobodan Milosevic.

On Saturday night, thousands of students demonstrated in central Belgrade, supporting the call of Zoran Djindjic, the Mayor, to ignore the parliamentary and presidential elections. But diplomats and international observers doubted whether enough of the 7.2 million electorate would heed Mr Djindjic's advice. A turnout of under 50 per cent would nullify the elections.

Mr Milosevic is, in theory, removed from political life, occupying the more ceremonial role of federal Yugoslav President. In reality he is everywhere, overshadowing campaigning by the Socialist coalition candidate, Zoran Ljilic, a former male model.

Voters had two other mainstream presidential candidates to choose from: Vuk Draskovic, a former partner of Mr Djindjic and figurehead of last winter's demonstrations, and Vojislav Seselj, an ultranationalist who ran Chetnik paramilitary units during the Bosnian war. Diplomats were predicting a run-off.

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Lebanese fire on Islamic militants

By Christopher Walker

THE Lebanese Army yesterday launched an unprecedented crackdown on Islamic militants, killing two and wounding two others in a northern port city after a battle to close their unlicensed television station.

Lebanese security officials said that the troops opened fire on members of the al-Tawheed Muslim fundamentalist movement, hundreds of whom had been gathering outside their al-Hilal television station since Saturday while their leaders negotiated with the authorities. Three Lebanese soldiers were also wounded in the fighting.

The officials said that 60 members of al-Tawheed were arrested, including two sons of the movement's leader, Sheikh Saeed Shaaban. The Sunni Muslim al-Tawheed operates mainly around Tripoli in the north, while Hezbollah, the main Shia Islamic grouping, has its strength concentrated in Beirut and in the south of Lebanon.

Arab diplomatic sources said that the clampdown will have had the tacit support of Syria, which has cracked down hard on its own Islamic extremists.

Peace fears after Arafat collapses



The Palestinian leader, left, fainted during talks with Arabs. Christopher Walker reports

A NEW threat has emerged to the already shaky Middle East peace process — the declining health of Yasser Arafat, the 68-year-old Palestinian leader who has no obvious successor.

After 48 hours of diplomatic cover-up, it emerged yesterday from reliable Egyptian government sources that Mr Arafat blacked out during a heated meeting with Arab foreign ministers in Cairo on Friday and later had to be helped from the Foreign Ministry building.

He collapsed during an argument about a controversial economic conference with Israel due to be staged in the Gulf state of Qatar in November. "He got upset and just blacked out," said an Egyptian Foreign Ministry official who declined to be named.

The confirmation of the incident followed weeks of diplomatic speculation about Mr Arafat's increasingly weak-looking condition. Hours after Mr Arafat's fainting fit, but without knowledge of it, Israel's Channel 2 television network carried an authoritative report based on US intelligence sources that the former guerrilla leader was "very ill". The report caused acute embarrassment among PLO leaders, who denied that talks were under way on a successor.

According to the Israeli television account, Mr Arafat is suffering from a degenerative muscle disease, but his mental capacity is so far

unaffected. The report was based on medical evidence obtained by the CIA, whose representatives have been in close contact with Mr Arafat as the Middle East crisis has deepened in recent weeks. It followed descriptions from diplomats and others who have had recent contact with him of both his hands and lips trembling uncontrollably, increasing fragility and a staring look in his eyes.

Unaware of their leader's collapse in front of numerous

Cairo bombing arrests

Cairo: Egyptian security yesterday arrested four mental health officials, claiming that they took bribes and aided the escape of a patient who attacked a tour bus here last week, killing nine German tourists and the Egyptian bus driver.

President Mubarak has ordered military prosecutors

to investigate the case against Sabir Abu el-Ulla, who reportedly escaped from an asylum several days before the attack, and his brother, Mahmoud. The two were detained at the museum. Government officials no longer think there was a third attacker, despite witnesses' reported sightings. (AP)

Amman [Mr Arafat's nom de guerre] feels terrific.

Western diplomatic sources said last night that, if Mr Arafat's decline continued, it could have serious repercussions for the peace process, as no other Palestinian official is thought to have anywhere near his standing among the majority of the 2.2 million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, or the millions of others in the diaspora.

A senior Palestinian journalist from the West Bank claimed that Mr Arafat had recently had a similar blackout during a meeting of Palestinian ministers in the West Bank town of Ramallah. "I was told by a doctor on the spot that for a whole day he was not able to function properly. But, as is usual, the incident was hushed up," the journalist said.

PLO sources said the man most often mentioned as a potential successor is Mr Arafat's number two, Abu Mazen, architect of the peace deal negotiated in Gaza but resented by many for alleged self-enrichment as a result.

Israeli and Arab medical sources differed about the exact nature of Mr Arafat's illness. In addition to the muscle disease, another possible reason for his recent poor health, according to some senior Palestinian figures, could be complications arising from the 1992 removal of a blood clot after the crash of his plane in the Libyan desert.

WORLD SUMMARY

Fight for power by Solidarity

Warsaw: Poles voted in a general election yesterday in which the choice was between what one political leader described as "two hostile armies" that are unlikely to cooperate in the next parliament (Patricia Kozma writes).

Candidates were competing for votes among an electorate of 28.8 million for 460 seats in the lower house (Sejm) and 100 in the Senate. Józef Oleksy, head of the post-communist Democratic Left Alliance, predicted a turnout of about 55 per cent. An indication of the result is expected today.

The alliance's main foe is Solidarity Election Action, a loose grouping of nearly 40 right-wing and Christian parties, with the Solidarity union at its core.

Ferry capsizes

Delhi: At least 93 people were missing, feared drowned, in eastern India after the ferry they were travelling in capsized in the Ganges, the United News of India reported. The crowded boat went down near Patna city. The press agency said the authorities were finding it difficult to carry out rescue operations in the darkness. (AFP)

Hong Kong visit

Hong Kong: Li Peng, the Chinese Prime Minister, and Zhu Rongji, his deputy, arrived in Hong Kong, the first time such senior figures from the new sovereign power have been seen since the handover. Mr Li was present to address the annual meeting of the World Bank, the first ever held in China.

Soros prediction, page 52

Algeria killings

Paris: Suspected Muslim rebels killed more than 50 residents, mostly women and children, in a hamlet 45 miles south of Algiers, cutting their throats in an orgy of violence that ended a two-week lull in mass civilian slaughter, sources close to the security forces said. Opposition groups blame the spate of attacks on security forces. (Reuters)

Separatists shot

Srinagar: Indian troops shot dead 22 Muslim separatist guerrillas in the Himalayan state of Kashmir, the military said. Sixteen were killed in one battle and six others died in three separate exchanges of gunfire. (AFP)



Lightning strikes a conductor on top of the 1,066ft Centrepoint Tower in Sydney at the weekend

Woman's face sewn back on

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

A WOMAN who had her entire face and scalp ripped off when her hair caught in farm machinery was recovering in hospital in Melbourne, Australia, last night after micro-surgeons successfully sewed them back on again.

In what one member of the operating team described as "the most horrific and horrendous thing" he had ever seen, surgeons toiled for 25 hours to

reattach the woman's features. A surgeon said "the essential characteristics of her face will be there".

The unidentified 28-year-old mother had been found by her partner with her entire face and scalp torn off, in a milking shed on their farm near Shepparton, Victoria.

Yesterday Professor Wayne Morrison, who led the operating team at St Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne, said it was a horrific sight. "What we saw was a head that had been

stripped of the skin and the hair and essentially looked like what you see in an anatomical dissection."

When the woman arrived at hospital only her chin, left ear and lower lip remained attached to her face. The rest was packed in ice while surgeons traced blood vessels and others worked on the remains of the face.

During her ordeal, the victim was given transfusions of nearly twice the body's eight pints of blood.

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Southern Africa faces chaos as drought bites

FROM R.W. JOHNSON
IN DURBAN

SOUTHERN AFRICA is bracing itself for the worst El Niño drought since 1982-83, when record floods followed. All but one of the 23 recorded instances of El Niño have brought drought to this part of the world, and that predicted for December this year will be the sixth in 20 years.

El Niño ("the child" in Spanish, so-called by fishermen in Peru and Ecuador because the phenomenon arrives at Christmas) is only partially understood, but our knowledge is complemented by the work of the British scientist, Sir Gilbert Walker, who derived the southern oscillation index, allowing prediction of Indian monsoons.

A positive index score predicts high pressure in the East while a negative score predicts drought. Taken together, the two measures are referred to as ENSO (El Niño Southern Oscillation).

By April this year the index was already negative, a bad sign. For the earlier in the year this year, the more severe the ultimate drought. By July there was a negative index the

Periodic disruption of Pacific weather patterns brings disaster in its wake, with droughts where there should be rain and floods in arid regions. This year's El Niño threatens to be a record-breaker, piling on the misery as far away as South Africa

same as that seen in the very worst of the 1991-92 drought. Matters have deteriorated and the index is expected to hit its nadir in January 1998.

In 1991-92 the effect of El Niño was to make Botswana the epicentre of a drought that spread across most of southern Africa. Soon one could count 20-25 grain ships a day waiting to enter Durban harbour as international agencies hurried to bring famine relief to Zambia, Zimbabwe, Namibia and Botswana.

In southern Africa the key effect of drought is felt on the maize crop, which is the basic African food staple. South Africa is expected to export eight million tonnes of maize in 1997 in addition to feeding its own population. But in 1991-92 the effect of El Niño was to cut South Africa's maize production by two-thirds. In the southern African

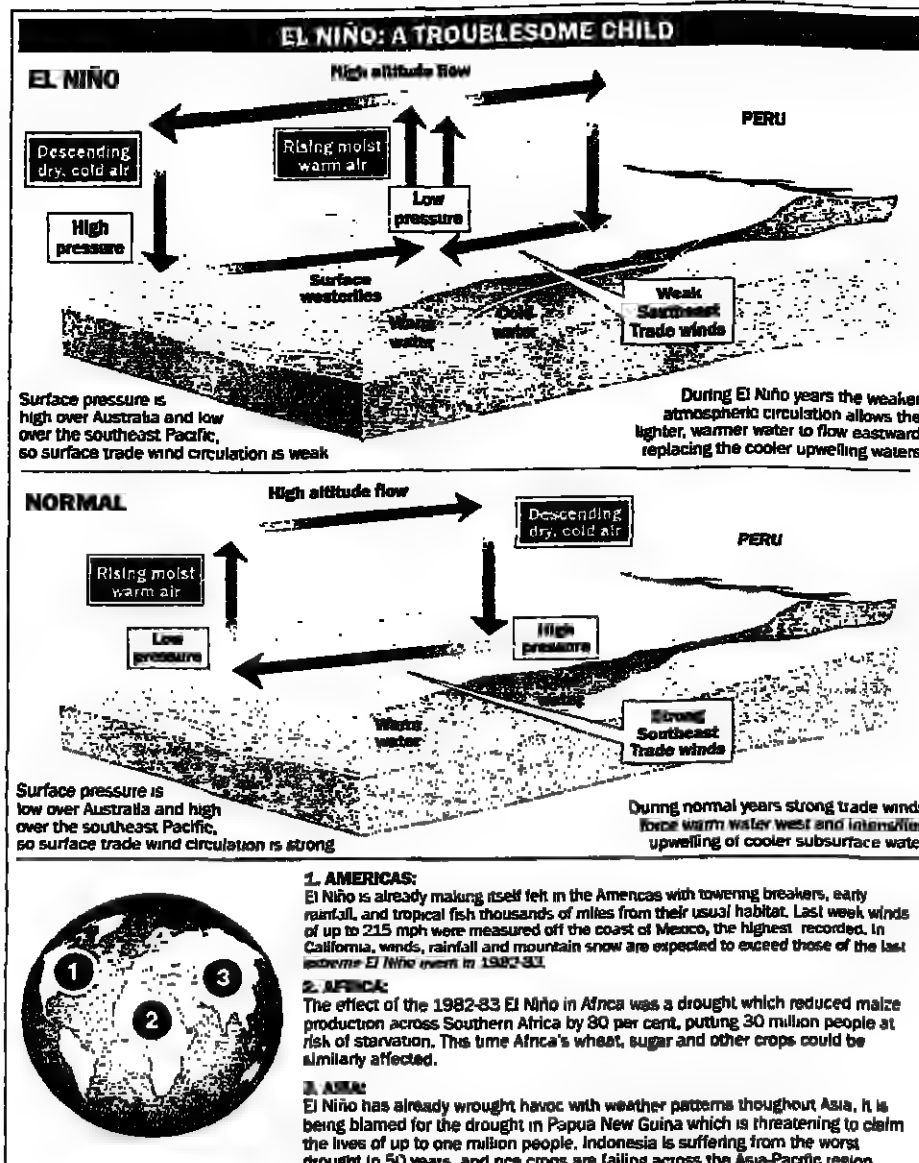
region as a whole, maize production fell by 80 per cent. Thirty million people were placed at risk of malnutrition. South Africa and Zimbabwe had to import seven million tonnes of maize and South Africa was forced to obtain a loan from the International Monetary Fund for drought relief.

Already this year SBC Warburg, the investment bank, is predicting that South African maize production will fall by 50 per cent (producing a 0.8 per cent decline in the country's gross domestic product), but other estimates are far worse. The effects will be felt also on wheat, sugar and other crops because drought at the peak of the southern summer in January hits plants while they are in their most moisture-reliant reproductive phase.

During the drought and accompanying heatwave of 1991-92 in Zimbabwe, temperatures of more than 40C (104F) brought biblical scenes, with insects and birds simply dropping dead in mid-air from dehydration. The region's mines — producing a dominant share of the world's gold, copper, nickel, palladium and rhodium, as well as large proportions of its uranium, diamonds and zinc — could also be hit as they require large quantities of water for cooling, washing, smelting and for power generation.

The only bright spot is that southern Africa has just had two years of good rains. Reservoirs are full and so are granaries. The South African Government, aware that such advantages can evaporate with horrible speed, is nonetheless planning emergency measures and South Africa's suburbanites are hurriedly topping up their swimming pools in anticipation of household restrictions on water consumption.

La Paz: An intense heatwave and powerful storms blamed on El Niño caused five deaths in Bolivia last week, officials said at the weekend. (AFP)



Experts fearful of mass Papua hunger

FROM ROGER MAYNARD
IN SYDNEY

A TEAM of emergency aid workers from Australia flew into Papua New Guinea at the weekend to assess the severity of a drought which experts fear could claim the lives of up to a million people.

The arrival of the disaster management team from Care Australia and the Australian National University follows mounting concern over the absence of crucial seasonal rains, which have been disrupted by El Niño.

Northern Australia, Indonesia and much of South-East Asia have been similarly affected. But it is the people of Papua New Guinea's Central Highlands, where severe frosts have combined with the drought, who are most at risk from the current dry spell.

An estimated 100 people have died so far and some government officials are suggesting that thousands more are at risk.

Leith Anderson, the director of Papua New Guinea's National Disaster and Emergency Services, said latest reports indicated that up to a million people could soon be facing starvation. Roy Yaki, the Finance Minister, said frosts which had damaged crops were compounding the worsening situation. "We are not very far from declaring a state of emergency," he said.

Singapore: El Niño has been blamed for a thick smoky haze that has shrouded Malaysia for several weeks and killed 150 people in Indonesia. Dr Fredolin Tangang, of the National University of Malaysia, said the smoke phenomenon was not new but El Niño had aggravated it by drying out sections of Sumatra and Borneo and reversing the direction of prevailing winds.

Surf's up as California previews 'whopper of the century'



A surfer ejects from a 15ft wave at Newport Beach as Hurricane Linda retreats

"IT WAS the biggest surf I've ever known," said Michael Norton, a Hollywood researcher, after missing work to ride the outer ripples of a hurricane off California's San Onofre State Beach. "The day before it was even more insane. Broken boards, snapped leashes, the whole shebang."

Two months before it is expected to strike California in earnest, the unruly force of nature known as El Niño has made its presence felt with towering breakers, early rain and tropical fish thousands of miles from their usual habitat. One NASA scientist has called the coming storm season "the whopper of the century".

Last week winds of 215mph were measured near the heart of Hurricane Linda, the most powerful seen off Mexico. It drifted northwest, sparing California, but was rapidly followed by another hur-

An ill wind blows the beach boys some good, writes Giles Whittell

cane that has brought flooding and property damage to long stretches of Mexico.

Though neither storm owed its genesis to the effect of El Niño, both were intensified by it and showed that "the hype was justified", according to Chris Borg, chief meteorologist for the SurfLine forecasting service.

In California, winds, rainfall and mountain snows this winter are expected to eclipse those of the last extreme El Niño season in 1982-83, when two pliers and hundreds of beachfront homes were wrecked by waves and mudslides. Worldwide, 2,000 deaths and \$13 billion (£8 billion) of property damage were blamed on the phenomenon that year.

Coast dwellers are bracing

themselves from Malibu to San Francisco, piling up sandbags in case of flash floods as local authorities use bulldozers to build sand berms along popular beaches. Inland, Napa Valley's wine-growers have given a warning that early rains may have spilt what they hoped would be a bumper year.

America's suffering is likely to pale beside that of other continents. The far-reaching El Niño has wreaked havoc on Central and South American coffee crops, raising prices and bringing jitters to commodities markets. On the eastern Pacific rim, where the effect is linked to drought rather than storms, it has been blamed for \$130 million crop and livestock losses in New Zealand.

As one American commodities broker said last week, El Niño "might as well be called El Diablo for all the toll it takes on the world".

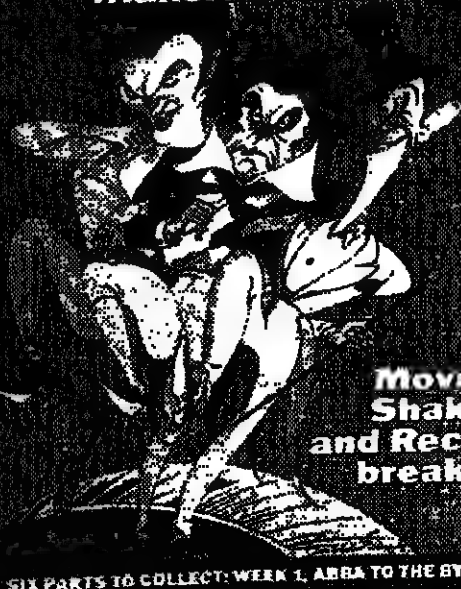
Michael Norton meanwhile spoke for every hedonist serious enough to put his surfing before work. "I can get fired plenty of times," he said, "but I may never know this kind of surf again."

Mexico City: Hurricane Nora began to regain strength yesterday and veered north towards the Baja California peninsula, threatening half a dozen tiny islands in the Pacific. The Government posted warnings in the sparsely populated Socorro Island and nearby Revillagigedo Islands.

Flood warnings for waves and swells generated by Nora also remained in effect for hundreds of miles on the mainland, from Cabo Corrientes to Punta Maldonado. (AP)

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THE TIMES

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Despite their long use, sprays based on the pesticide *Bt* have not lost their effectiveness. But environmentalists fear that may be about to change as a result of the creation of genetically engineered crop plants that incorporate the *Bt* gene

Environmentalists in the US have sprung to the defence of the spray, a agricultural technique that since the days of Rachel Carson has provided them with a favourite whipping-boy.

This time Greenpeace, the Sierra Club, the International Federation of Organic Farmers and other pressure groups are petitioning the US Environmental Protection Agency to preserve a spray, not to hasten its demise. Behind this volte-face lies the worry that biotechnologists are about to deprive organic farmers of a valued tool, all in the name of progress.

Since the 1960s, organic farmers have been spraying their crops with a pesticide derived from a soil bacterium called *Bacillus thuringiensis* (*Bt*). The bacterium contains a gene that enables it to make a protein fatal to many common pests such as the corn-borer. When the pest swallows the protein, an enzyme in their digestive systems splits the protein and releases the toxin.

Though fatal to pests, *Bt* is benign enough — and its origins natural enough — to qualify for use even by farmers opposed to chemical sprays in general. For organic

Spray on, says Greenpeace

Green pressure groups are arguing for the continued use of a pesticide spray. Nigel Hawkes reports

farmers it is a useful weapon, but its application outside fields and some Canadian forests has been limited. Overall, it accounts for no more than one to one and a half per cent of the insecticide market in North America.

Despite their long use, sprays based on *Bt* have not lost their effectiveness. But environmentalists fear that may be about to change as a result of genetic engineering. At least 16 companies are working on new crop plants that incorporate the *Bt* gene, meaning that the crops can make their own insecticides. Cotton, maize and potatoes containing *Bt* are already on the market. According to the environmentalists' petition, more than 20 such crops have either been approved or are awaiting approval worldwide.

The potential impact is large, both on agriculture and on the existing market for pesticides. According to one estimate, of the \$8.1 billion spent every year on insecti-

cides, nearly \$2.7 billion could be replaced by *Bt* crops. In the US in 1996, more than three million acres were planted with *Bt* crops, and this year the figure is expected to reach more than 20 million acres.

The worry is that incorporating *Bt* into crops will hasten the development of resistance. Jim Lynch, Professor of Biotechnology at Surrey University, says that used as a spray, *Bt* was the only really successful biological control agent. It has a small but worthwhile share of the market, and there was no evidence of resistance developing. If it did, farmers could always switch to a different strain. It was all going very nicely.

The point about *Bt* sprays, he says, is that they are only used occasionally, so that the pests were not exposed to them for long. Once

they have done their job, they degrade into harmless compounds. But the situation in *Bt* plants is very different. Instead of sporadic spraying, the plants will express the gene all the time, providing a much better opportunity for resistance to develop.

Clear signs that this is not just a theoretical danger came in March, when Professor Bruce Tabashnik of the University of Arizona and colleagues showed that the diamond-back moth can develop resistance to several strains of *Bt* by altering just a single gene. They also showed that one in a hundred of the moths already possessed the resistance gene.

This implied that resistance could develop far more swiftly than previously believed, and that the strategy of engineering plants to

produce several toxins at once might not necessarily be helpful in delaying resistance. The first generation of *Bt* plants produce only one toxin. "The worst case scenario is that in just a few years there would be widespread resistance," Professor Tabashnik said. "The hope is that they will last at least five to 10 years."

Two strategies have been proposed to deal with the problem, says Professor Lynch. "Ecologists say we can control it by planting non-*Bt* plants around the genetically-engineered ones." These are meant to serve as areas of refuge, where populations of non-resistant insects are maintained. "The trouble is that it has never really been proved to work," says Professor Lynch. The second approach comes from molecular biology. This

would get around the difficulty of resistance by making plants produce the toxins only when they are attacked by pests, instead of all the time. That would reduce the selection pressure on the insects to develop resistance. Professor Lynch agrees that it is a nice idea, but says "We haven't got to the stage where we can actually do it."

The Greenpeace petition, to which the EPA has 90 days to produce an answer, suggests two further potential problems with *Bt* crops. One is that the gene will find its way into closely-related plants nearby, where it may kill insects that are not pests at all, and hasten the development of resistance by diminishing the "refuge" areas.

The second is that *Bt* plants may have unintended effects on non-target species. "The evidence is that *Bt* produced by plants can kill beneficial species such as lacewings, which feed on aphids," says Dr Doug Parr, Campaigns Centre Director for Greenpeace UK. "For

some reason, this doesn't seem to happen when it is used as a spray."

But resistance, and keeping it at bay, lies at the heart of the petition. Jim Gerritsen, one of the many American organic farmers who signed the petition, says "We consider the transgenic application of *Bt* to be unwise because of the high likelihood that the plants will rapidly accelerate resistance to *Bt*. Should we ever lose *Bt*, our ability as organic farmers to grow quality products will be in question."

Professor Lynch says that he thinks the petition deserves a careful hearing. "The commercial lobbies are working hard to promote *Bt* crops," he says. "And the tendency in the biotechnology business has been to rush on, saying that there's no problem."

"The balanced approach would be to look at the timing, and not to try to get too rich too quickly. If we're not careful, we could kill *Bt* stone dead, and that would put at risk a control process for which there are not many alternatives."

The EPA has promised to consider the petition "very seriously". If its concerns are ignored, Greenpeace and its allies have warned that they may pursue the issue in court.

□ Hungry birds □ Bubble trouble □ Planetary shock

Better fed than red

How do parent birds decide which of their brood to feed first? In the case of canaries, it seems, they look deeply into their open mouths and work out exactly what shade of pink they are. The redder the shade, the more desperate the chick's need for food. Dr Rebecca Kilner of the Department of Zoology at Cambridge has discovered.

Many fledgling birds have bright mouths. While those of canaries are pink, the duncock's is orange, and the robin's yellow. Many explanations have been provided for the bright colours, but Dr Kilner set out to show that it serves as an honest signal of need. To do so, she needed to show that mouth colour does indeed vary with need, and that parents respond to it by giving the most food to the chicks with the reddest mouths.

She bred canaries in Cambridge and conducted a simple experiment with seven pairs of siblings. One member of each pair was fed with a rearing mix called Nectarblend through a syringe, while the other was not. After half an hour, both were placed in an artificial nest and induced to beg. As soon as they opened their mouths, pictures were taken and the colours compared. This showed that the needier chicks

had significantly redder mouths. This is achieved through increasing blood flow to the mouth, which is equipped with lots of blood vessels, to create a temporary flush.

Next she checked whether redder mouths actually make the parent birds behave differently. This involved adding cochineal to the feeding mix for some chicks, deliberately altering their mouth colour, and then returning them to the nest and watching whether they were given a greater share of the food by their parents.

The results, reported in *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*, showed that indeed the parents' behaviour was influenced by the colour of their chick's mouths. Chicks with redder mouths got more food. Interestingly, when both mouths were reddened, the parents simply worked harder, delivering more food to their apparently insatiable offspring. This implies that the adults respond to absolute rather than relative changes in mouth colour.

The results do leave a few questions unanswered, however. If having a brighter mouth guarantees more food, why do nestlings not simply produce the red flush all the time? Dr Kilner suggests that doing so may be costly, because blood needs to be diverted from the gut to the mouth to create the flush. In this case, getting food and digesting it would act in opposition, ensuring that the signal remained "honest". Alternatively, there could be a direct physiological link which would prevent blood flowing to the mouth when the gut was full.

Other birds with different-coloured mouths remain a puzzle. It is hard to see how blood flow could change the colours of a yellow or orange mouth, though experiments may yet show that to be the case.

More likely, she suggests, these bright colours simply serve as targets so that the mouth is more visible and the parents can deliver the food to the right place in a dark nest.



SCIENCE BRIEFING
Nigel Hawkes

□ The fizzy wines that fail to sparkle

DRINKERS of fizzy wine know that there is a world of difference between a wine made by the *methode champenoise*, in which the

fizz is produced by fermentation in the bottle, and the cheap, nasty alternative of bubbling it in from a gas canister. Now analytical chemists from the University of Salamanca, in Spain, have found what they believe is a reliable way of supplementing the judgment of the palate with that of the mass spectrometer.

Immaculada Gonzalez-Martin and her colleagues say the difference is in the ratio of carbon isotopes in

the carbon dioxide which makes up the bubbles. Carbon dioxide produced by fermentation contains about 10-20 carbon-13 atoms per thousand carbon atoms, while the carbon dioxide produced industrially has up to 75 per thousand.

Chemistry in Britain reports that the team has produced a hollow "dipstick" to collect the bubbles from a bottle of wine and convey them to the mass spectrometer. They tested 24 Spanish cava and found that four had suspicious carbon ratios, suggesting artificial gasification. This could enable the regulators of Spanish sparkling wines to prosecute unscrupulous producers.

□ Mars springs magnetic surprise

THE Mars Global Surveyor, which recently arrived at the red planet, has made a surprising discovery. It has found that Mars possesses a magnetic field which, although puny by Earth standards, is still a lot more powerful than expected. The discovery has some implications for the possible existence of life on Mars some time in the past, as a magnetic field is needed to fend off damaging cosmic rays which would otherwise sterilise the planet.

On Earth, the magnetic field is generated by movements in its

molten iron core, which produce electric currents and hence a magnetic field. If Mars ever had such a dynamo, it long since ran down, because the planet is geologically inactive today. So why does it have a field at all?

The most plausible explanation is that the field is a remnant imprinted on rocks in Mars' crust before its dynamo wound down. Although only one 800th of the strength of Earth's field, it is still, says Dr David Stevenson, a planetary physicist at the California Institute of Technology, "a somewhat surprising result since it's not that easy to get as large a field as the spacecraft has found".

□ PMT? OSTEOPOROSIS? MENOPAUSE?

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Punch and Judy, Paddy Ashdown and me . . .

APRIL 1

The phoney war is over and we are finally installed in our headquarters at Cowley Street. Unlike our opponents, we have had to reconfigure party headquarters to cater for the election team. We are functioning against a background of limited resources, competing with the millions of pounds spent to fund the machines of the two other parties.

The Liberal Democrat version of the other parties' Excalibur computers — high-powered electronic libraries — is a person called Candida. Many of the election team are volunteers; staff are playing out of position.

Dick Newby, whom I like and admire enormously and whose calm nature is invaluable, is in charge of external communications.

He's brought with him someone rather more abrasive, but who is to prove crucial to the success of our campaign: Gavin Grant, Body Shop Director of Public Affairs, and master of the soundbite.

Our headquarters might be tightly staffed, but as Lord Holme, chair of our campaign, puts it: "We shall think lean and we shall think clean."

After two weeks dominated by siege we launch our first press conference in Church House with a Punch and Judy show — lead roles played by Tony Blair and John Major puppets bashing each other about. The puppet show provides for the visual needs of the media, as well as "punching" home our challenge to the other parties — namely, let's talk about positive solutions.

It also provides the late, great Vincent Hanna with an opportunity for a perfect "Hanna-ism". "Does Paddy Ashdown see himself as a string of sausages? Or perhaps he would prefer the role of crocodile? If not, perhaps a policeman?" Paddy doesn't hesitate — he sees himself as the policeman.

Lord Holme is running a highly centralised campaign with a strong central command. The main room on the first floor in Cowley Street has become the communications centre. From here, press releases, responses to events, and soundbites hammering

As the Liberal Democrat conference opens, Jane Bonham Carter, who helped orchestrate the party's most successful election result for 70 years, reveals her campaign secrets

home the core message are coordinated.

APRIL 2-3

Tory and Labour manifestos launched. We seem to be stuck in the polls. Particularly bad is MORI, which says we're down three points. However, we are confident that once our manifesto is launched things will get better. Richard Holme is chairing the morning press conferences, attended by many journalists, despite the appallingly early hour. He has a good, witty relationship with the press corps, and handles jokes, and deals with questions of positioning and polls. This means that spokespeople can concentrate on the issues of the day.

APRIL 4

Our manifesto launch. Feel that the week has ended on a good note and that we are getting our message across.

The Conservatives, our primary opponents, have left a litany of broken promises. The Labour Party's neurosis about providing hostages to fortune, particularly in the area of taxation, has left a welcome vacuum for us. We know from our target seat and benchmark-polling programme that what we are saying is popular. People care deeply about schooling, about the NHS, about crime on our streets, and they are willing to contemplate paying a bit more tax in order to improve services.

The magazine *Accountancy* Age has done a poll of company directors — 55 per cent say taxes should rise to pay for investment in health, education and law and order.

APRIL 6

More gloom for us from MORI, but we don't believe it. However, I'm finding it increasingly hard to ward off journalistic cynicism.

The other parties are continuing to throw mud at each other — the Tories have characterised Tony Blair as "slithering and squirming".

APRIL 7

The Liberal Democrats have a benefactor in the shape of a Mr Noon, who is supplying free curries for the duration of the election. Another kindly

person is our general secretary, Graham Elson, who, discovering that I like cranberry juice, makes sure there is always a carton on my desk.

APRIL 8

We are feeling distinctly pious. The Council of Churches has launched a report today incorporating five proposals. They are all part of our manifesto.

APRIL 9

We have our first Open Circle: a small group of voters, united

by a common concern, gathered together to talk to Paddy informally. Unfortunately, we learn that our Twickenham group has been infiltrated by a belligerent Richmond Tory. We decide to re-christen these events "discussion in the round", and be a little bit less "open" next time.

APRIL 10

Paddy Ashdown genuinely hates the false world of Westminster politics, and is very good when dealing with

people directly. I'm not sure exactly how "direct" *Question Time* is considering the intrusive nature of cameras, lights etc, but his abilities are on show when he appears. I stand in the wings of the studio, and he is brilliant — an approachable leader, in touch with people's lives and hopes.

APRIL 11

Europe is back on the agenda. We are potentially vulnerable to attack as Euro-luvvies. The communications centre

swings into action: the Liberal Democrats are the original referendum party. As one broadcaster put it to me (after the election), we were a guerrilla force that could dart about, while the others were like the Americans in Vietnam, encumbered by having to move heavy tanks.

APRIL 12

Europe continues to be a problem for the Tories: more right-wing candidates are taking up the offer of financial help by Paul Sykes, the Yorkshire millionaire, to those who voice opposition to the single currency. For the first and last time during the campaign I beat Gavin Grant to the draw on a soundbite: Paddy's line that the Tories have "gone from cash for questions to cash for quotes" is *The Guardian's* front-page headline.

APRIL 13

An NOP poll in *The Sunday Times* has the Liberal Democrats up five points, and we have a glowing editorial in *The Observer*. We are winning the battle of trust on the crucial issue of tax — an ITV 500 poll has 61 per cent saying Paddy Ashdown can be trusted on tax, with 36 per cent for Tony Blair and 26 per cent for John Major.

APRIL 15

Paddy on tenterhooks about his daughter, who has gone into labour. However, he relaxes enough during an interview with *The Times* to impress the editor — and bet his shirt not once, but three times, that Lib-Dem policies would prove popular with the electorate.

APRIL 16

John Cleese has said he would like to spend a day campaigning for us. We arrange for him to telephone some of our recent converts. The media is in attendance. "What was it about my election broadcast

that made you switch to the Liberal Democrats?" he asks Nick from Stockport. "Nothing," comes the reply. But John later gets his own back with the next caller, a Mr Brin Dimmot. "Is your name an anagram?" he inquires. I pretend the whole thing was scripted.

APRIL 17

Paddy is mobbed in Hereford, and we are delighted to find ourselves under attack from Gordon Brown. Labour must be rattled. This has a miraculous effect on the exhaustion we are all beginning to feel.

APRIL 18

Things are getting better still. The latest Tory advert portrays Blair as Helmut Kohl's



Judy Major and Punch Blair

ventriloquist's doll. Time to bring back Punch and Judy? It is acknowledged that almost the only shift in public opinion since the beginning of the campaign is an improvement in our direction. Paddy and Jane go to France, weighed down with teddy bears and champagne, to meet their grandson.

APRIL 22

Sit in on interview with George Jones and Alice Thomson for the *Daily Telegraph*, which goes very well. How-

ever, Paddy makes a strange reference to John Major being like a row of houses on the A3. This duly appears in the article and Richard Holme and I have a disagreement at the pre-press conference meeting as to the exact siting of these houses. The pressure must be getting to me — I never argue about locations, since I have no sense of direction.

Nick Clarke, on *The World At One*, asks Paddy what he meant but Paddy can't really explain himself. I don't think it will do us much electoral damage.

APRIL 23

Sudden flurry over an ICM poll that puts the Tories up, and in the running. We don't believe it.

APRIL 24

When Gavin told us today was "Take your daughter to work day", we asked Liberal Democrat candidates to bring their daughters to our press conferences. The theme was "A Fair deal for women". Candidates and party workers take their daughters out campaigning: the result — great media interest.

FINAL WEEK

We throw to the winds all caution about one-man-bands and send Paddy off in a fleet (well there were more than two) of helicopters on a whirlwind tour. Tim Razzall, in charge of the last week, metamorphoses into Tim Fish and becomes obsessed by hurricanes and hailstorms. In fact the sun shines and enthusiastic crowds greet Paddy. Supporters wave placards stating "We trust Paddy", "Invest in education", "Winning here". The Oxford rally overflows.

The day before Election Day we get an endorsement from Tom Conti. I call him to thank him after it is all over. "Forty-six MPs! Amazing what an interview can do," he says.



Jane Bonham Carter (left) was a close campaign adviser to Paddy Ashdown (above).

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A traveller in the realm of the mind

As a young academic with two small children, George Steiner faced a life-transforming decision: accept a lucrative post at an American university and help fulfil Hitler's prophecy that, as he puts it, "no one called Steiner would ever live in Europe", or remain at Cambridge where he had little chance of securing tenure. A polyglot and a maverick, Steiner, a founding fellow of Churchill College, did not fit comfortably into the closed, parochial world of the mid-1960s. He was too self-confident, too eclectic, not English enough.

His passion for work in other languages, his restless roaming across apparently incompatible disciplines and insistence on the Holocaust as the defining calamity of our century isolated him. He was offered a professorial salary, but denied the right to examine. Steiner, who as an extraordinary fellow of Churchill retains links with his college, says: "That would have been fatal: if you can't examine, if you can't join in the life of a faculty your students suffer. I wouldn't accept this."

He was determined, though, to live in Europe, to honour the moral imperative of his father who sternly told him over lunch that if he went to America, "Hitler had won". "Later," he says, "I phoned my wife and said, 'Zara, I don't know if I can enter industry or sell clothing, but I will do anything rather than face that moment of contempt from my father again.' So Steiner, in his own self-description, became a "great wanderer", a figure on the margins, working in universities but belonging to none. It was not until his appointment, in 1972, as Professor of Comparative Literature at Geneva University that he secured a settled position.

Now 68, he describes his wife Zara — a native New Yorker of Lithuanian Jewish extraction and a former vice-president of New Hall, Cambridge — as the love of his life. Their meeting was ordained: working in London in the early 1950s he was then a writer on the *Economist*; she on secondment at the Foreign Office. They received separate postcards from former professors at Harvard, where they had both studied, urging them "to be a sport" and meet up. "The professors had had a

Polymath, scholar and instinctive outsider, George Steiner talks to Jason Cowley about risk, passion and the decency of the English

bet... that we would get married if we ever met." Steiner ignored the first postcard, but soon afterwards another arrived. He phoned Zara and they met for afternoon tea, agreeing that "we would send our own postcard after the meeting, saying, 'You lose the bet.' But at the end of our afternoon together, he turned to Zara and said: 'Perhaps we should send that postcard next time.'"

Walking with Steiner through the grounds of Churchill College you are struck by the loneliness of his position and how his plight as an outsider has hurt him. His parents were elegant, cultured Viennese Jews, who, unsettled by the incipient anti-Semitism in Austria, moved to Paris in 1924. "A systematic, doctrinal Jew-hatred seethed and stank below the glittering liberalities of Viennese culture," he writes in his new book, *Errata*, a compelling semi-autobiographical meditation.

Steiner is a treasure, if trenchant and controversial, link to the central European Jewry from which sprang many of the commanding figures of our modernity — Wittgenstein, "Marx, Freud, Einstein and Schoenberg. Many of his essays — a form he has made idiosyncratically his own — are elegies for that lost world. For Steiner the perplexity of our age is that the humanities did not humanise; that senior Nazis listened to Schumann and Bach and still organised the Final Solution; that great art may, in some way, encourage barbarism and tyranny; that to survive the levelling threat of assimilation the Jew may have to solicit disaster.

He feels he owes his existence to the fact that his father, a prosperous merchant banker, saw with "grim clairvoyance" the coming Nazi storm. He describes how his father

continually warned relatives and friends of the danger of remaining in Vienna. "No body of your age," he says, "gripping my arm, 'knows what it was to grow up with a father who knew that Hitler was coming but couldn't get people to listen to him. As late as 1938, his cousins and sisters in Vienna and Prague were saying, 'Oh, come off it. We are completely safe.' Steiner pauses, lowers his head. "But, of course, 1938 was too late. They stayed and died."

Steiner was born in Paris in 1929, with a withered right arm — an handicap, which though he does not say so, may have given him an instinctive sympathy for the outcast. He was precocious and gifted, studying the classics as a child. He was educated at home and in the elitist French lycée system, where he spoke French, German and English. In 1940 the family moved to America, where Steiner attended the University of Chicago. A month after they left Paris the Nazis surged in. Of the many Jewish children in his school only two survived.

Steiner adored his parents. His mother, who often began a sentence in one language ending it in another, was, he says, a "typically delightful Viennese grand dame". He gently begins to sing, as his mother once sang to him, a charming dirge: "I am bad/I could be better/But it doesn't really matter." He looks up, his eyes watering. "I loved my parents so much that it killed the creative artist in me."

That is not strictly true: as well as criticism, Steiner has written fiction, including *The Portage to San Cristobal of A.H.*, in which a team of Nazi hunters discovers an aged Adolf Hitler living in exile in a Peruvian jungle. The novella was an international success; Steiner considered leaving academia and striking out as a novelist. He admires writers of

extremes, solitary, unafraid individuals who step outside conventional society in search of radical self-expression. He quotes approvingly a line from I.A. Richards: "Leaping crevices in the dark/That is the way to live."

He regrets that he himself has not lived on the edge, not leapt enough crevices in the dark. "After the success of the Hitler novel in the mid-1970s, I thought about going it alone; my only defence for not doing so was that I loved teaching. That's just an apology."

He recalls his father's fascination with Disraeli and England. "For the eastern and central European Jewish intelligentsia, the career of Disraeli had assumed a mythical, talismanic aura." Steiner also loves England, yet remains frustrated by its philistinism, mistrust of intellectuals and cultural fatigue. "When I was having trouble at Cambridge, people used to say it was because they didn't want a Jew to teach English. But I don't think it was that. England has a veneer of high society anti-Semitism, yet it has given Jews a tolerance, protection and ironic indifference..."

"In France, where they are passionate about abstract ideas, if you shoot a man for disagreeing with you about Hegel, then that is a tremendous compliment to the life of the mind. The English would say, 'No, no, that is very silly.' Steiner considers what he calls "the blessed decency" of John Major to be emblematically English. "That he could hand over power with a courteous handshake and smile, and then go that same afternoon to a cricket match speaks well of the man. Robespierre would not have gone to a cricket match."

Steiner speaks as he writes, long sentences of baroque grandeur. His English, with its massed adjectives and awkward syntax, but also its cloudbursts of insight, recalls Conrad. Critics are divided over his language and style, over his towering self-belief and range. Nabokov famously complained that one of his essays was "built on solid abstractions and opaque generalisations". James Wood, writing in the *New Republic*, lamented his "laborious imprecisions and melodramas". Steiner remains stoical. "I have many detractors; I am



George Steiner says of his Jewishness: "It is the badge I have worn my whole life, but not in humility or shame"

conscious of overwriting. On the other hand, Borges, Nabokov, Wilde, Conrad — maybe it's moving my way: maybe literature is becoming more polyglot." It is this unshakable belief in his work that irritates his critics.

His conversation is studded with allusions, half-remembered phrases, direct quotations. He is a remarkable

orator, using rhetoric, repetition and canny theatrical pauses to hold and delight an audience. At Cambridge, his lectures were always full. "I had more people in my lectures and more research students than anyone else."

A current of sadness runs through *Errata*, sadness at what was destroyed in the Shoah, and at what Steiner

has not done: the languages not learnt, the books unread, the risks (and drugs) not taken. In the final chapter, written in characteristic twilight mode, he grapples with his Judaism. With what he calls his "messianic agnosticism". For Steiner wants to establish the boundaries of knowledge — that of which we can speak — in order to make

way for faith in a transcendent as well as a materialist view of the world. "My Jewishness," he says, reaching out to touch the Star of David on the cover of *Errata*, "is the badge I have worn my whole life, but not in humility or shame. If I had to wear it again, I would wear a big one and with pride."

● *Errata* is published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson at £11.99.



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Paying the price of the TV revolution

Which channel is the golden goose of British television, for its investment in British production, for employing British talent and for reaching the majority of British viewers? ITV. And look what happened to the golden goose. Many think that that is about to happen to ITV, and in three or four years. This was one of the topics at the Royal Television Society's convention at Cambridge over the weekend.

By any comparison, ITV is a unique British success story. No where else is there a channel which makes profits for its shareholders, contributes massively in taxes to the state and makes programmes which sometimes outstrip those made by its often subsidised and tax-free rivals.

The British television programme currently most admired in the world is *Prime Suspect*, made by Granada and recently winner of its fourth successive Emmy. Then there is *World in Action*, Jimmy McGovern's *Hillsborough*, and the coverage of the

funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, which well matched that of its prime competitor. The backbone of regional television in the UK is ITV. The network wins 40 per cent of peaktime audiences. It invests — and this is very important — £420 million a year in British production and British programmes. But, according to analysts, it will be in serious trouble unless radical changes are made soon.

The problem is finance. Once upon a time there was something called the *Cosy Duopoly*. The BBC took public money, ITV took advertising money, and away they went to lure the best actors, writers, directors, producers and technical staffs in the country. Now we are told that the duopoly is over and all has changed.

But only half of it has changed. The BBC still retains its monopoly

of public money, now approaching £1.6 billion a year. But ITV's corresponding monopoly of advertising money has been smashed to smithereens.

Channel 4 takes advertising in quantity; Channel 5 is now in the hunt; BSkyB and cable are in the same game. For the ITV stations the game has changed dramatically. But it still finds itself with the same penalties as if it were still the sole commercial outlet. ITV has to pay the Treasury £400 million a year just to broadcast. Channel 5 pays £22 million, Channel 4 nothing; satellite is out of the equation.

On a Sunday morning, while the other channels take 95 per cent of the audience with "commercial" programming, ITV is obliged to broadcast two hours of religion. A Martian would be utterly baffled as to which was the public service channel. While ITV was rich and



uniquely privileged it could be argued that there is a rough justice in tying it down to what was in effect a public service remit for a substantial proportion of its air time. But now that uniqueness has

disappeared. It has legitimate competitors. Indeed, there are those who would argue that it has a new competitor in a BBC playing the commercial channels at their own game.

All the graphs now point to a decline in revenue for ITV. Graphs have been wrong before, but here they are giving us a clear message. What are the options? The Treasury and Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, could ignore this and say that the ITV companies are making good profits, therefore they can take the strain.

But that would not answer the case. The ITV companies have been encouraged to extend their commercial operations to make them more widely competitive. Like other companies they have to serve shareholders, and the Government is behind them on this. So

far they have done that, as well as poured a lavish amount into UK production. But what happens when profits clash with programme budgets?

The ITV companies could argue that they have no public obligation to outspend BBC1 or Channel 4 on programmes of quality. *Prime Suspect*, for instance, is a costly hour of television. It is possible for ITV to spend half as much on another drama or a tenth as much on the rights to a Hollywood film and settle for the lower audience while holding up the profit. They could continue to be profitable for many years, but could they continue to be both profitable and produce quality programming?

It is not too difficult to make cheaper arts programmes or documentaries or news programmes or

entertainment. But if that course were followed then it is certain it would have a debilitating effect on all the other channels. Why? Because since the mid-1960s it is the ITV schedule which has called the tune in direct competition with BBC1. Were one to lurch in a particular direction, the other would follow.

The simplest and best method would be to reduce this anachronistic and unfair burden on ITV as soon as possible, by reducing ITV's Treasury contribution and asking the other commercial channels to make up the difference.

The system is clearly out of kilter. The days of milk and honey are gone, and ITV will certainly fight to retain and even increase its profits, and it would be a disaster for British TV were that to be at the expense of quality programming and substantial investment in our industry. It is tricky to go in for special pleading for what is still a success. But the logic of the graphs is inexorable, and the cry of "wolf" is sometimes a real one.

Old folk got together for a family gathering

Olivia's Gallagher brothers may love their mother dearly, but their affection stops short of singing on stage with her. That's not rock'n'roll. In folk, though, they do things differently. While rock thrives on sibling rivalry, folk opts for domestic harmony. Watson-Carthy is its embodiment.

Watson-Carthy is Norma Watson, whose solo album *Mercury Music Prize* Martin Carthy, her husband who, like her, has been a key figure in English folk since the 1960s, and their daughter, Eliza Carthy, a talented singer and fiddle player. Together, they have recorded two albums, the first in 1994, the second, *Common Tongue*, earlier this year.

Onstage there is much teasing and back chat, and the easy companionship of a happy family, but their performance shows no sign of cosy self-indulgence. Their set is largely a tribute to the rich history of English folk music. They do not, though, wallow in nostalgia and nationalism. Their England is a patchwork of particular places. As Watson introduces each

POP
Watson-Carthy
Norwich

song, she locates it precisely — it's from Southampton, or Hull, or just up the coast from Robin Hood's Bay.

Nor do Watson-Carthy perform these tunes as if they were precious relics. Instead, with the addition of accordionist Saul Rose, they invest them



Norma Watson and her expressive hands

with a passionate intensity, as if the sea captains and forlorn lovers were in the Norwich Arts Centre audience. Watson's hands curve gentle arcs in the air as her warm rasp discovers the hidden melancholy in a tune. Eliza Carthy, her hair dyed green and her bottom lip pierced, sways and stamps her foot as she moves between boisterous hornpipes and lilting waltzes.

Meanwhile, father Martin plays the self-effacing accompanist, emerging only occasionally into the spotlight, as he does to sing the catchy *Rackabell*.

There are many fine moments in a long show. One is a rendition of *Some Old Sally*, with its memories of rocking to "Jelly Roll and Jerry Lee", but performed as a Baptist hymn by four unaccompanied voices locked in praise. Another, even finer, is *Fisher Boy*, a song about "fish and love", with its stunnerly slow guitar and violin, and with the anguished harmonies of mother and daughter — a model of Watson-Carthy family values.

JOHN STREET

Stop the millennium dumb

JIMMY CAUTY & Bill Drummond invite you to a 23-minute performance during which the next 840 days of our lives will be discussed. Tickets £10. That was the mysterious premise on which last Wednesday night's show at the Barbican Centre was sold.

Cauty and Drummond, known variously in the past as the Justified Ancients of Mu Mu, the KLF and the K Foundation, have acquired notoriety as much for their wasteful publicity stunts, including the burning of £1

2X
Barbican

million of their own money in 1995, as for their hit records. What could they be up to this time?

Well, first there was a short, single-shot film of a brick, called *This Brick*. How very droll. Then, record company mogul Anthony Wilson gave a brief introduction in which he explained that popular music often failed to be "working class". Cue the arrival of the Williams Fairly Brass Band which, accompanied by an industrial-strength acid house rhythm track, struck up the old KLF hit *What Time Is Love?*

Cauty and Drummond, wearing pyjamas and with their trademark horns strapped to their foreheads, buzzed around the stage in motorised wheelchairs. Drummond was holding a dead swan, from which he was seen to be plucking feathers.

Meanwhile, an axe-wielding "salvationist" in a vicar's collar and gold lame suit, and a shop steward character in a white coat with a megaphone,

wandered round the stage exhorting a rapidly swelling cast of participants to greater exertions.

A male choir materialised to sing *K Sera Sera* (the K Foundation's version of the Doris Day standard) and then a placard-waving mob of striking Liverpool dockers arrived on the scene. Their slogan, which they chanted for several long minutes over the music, was "F**k the millennium — we want it now".

This pithy concept, helpfully beamed up on a screen behind the stage, stood at the heart of the performance. Indeed, when it was all over, every member of the audience was presented with a white carrier bag containing a T-shirt, poster and bumper sticker all bearing this same anti-millennium message, with instructions to "use them to the full". As a "discussion" it was rather lacking in detail, to put it mildly. As a polemic, it all seemed curiously old-fashioned, a return to the gesture politics of the 1980s rather than a vision of the future. As a musical/theatrical presentation the strongest point in its favour was its brevity.

DAVID SINCLAIR

Did the virtuoso violinist Midori enjoy her hothouse upbringing? Hilary Finch finds out

The prodigy grows up

How do you describe the art of Midori? Various. It has been called obsessively serious, the musicianship of a veteran within the body of an adolescent, and even the violinist's equivalent of bonsai in its fastidious, intensive cultivation.

But as the 25-year-old Japanese-born violinist celebrates the tenth anniversary of her London debut with the London Symphony Orchestra, the character remains calculatedly enigmatic. The surname was discarded when she was 11; the single melon-likeur of a name masking a personality with a distinctively sharp aftertaste; and a recent, mysterious two-year silence.

Midori is learning to survive. Surviving, against all odds, being handed a violin at the age of four by an ambitious violin-leader mother; surviving early entrance to the Dorothy Delaney violin-teaching hothouse at the Juilliard School; surviving being spotted and championed by the likes of Zubin Mehta; surviving a full calendar of high-profile engagements from the age of 13.

In interview, Midori's antennae quiver. She is tense, hyper-alert, constantly self-monitoring. She insists on the presence of a minder. Her answers are business-like, crisp, astute, only obliquely revealing. What did it feel like landing in New York at 11 with no English? "I really don't remember. Aspen was beautiful... the mountains..."

Did she feel isolated? Did she have to pick up language and social skills by osmosis? "Yes. That was probably what happened. Most of all I had to discover how to learn repertoire really fast. I was bringing to my lessons a concerto per week. Yeah, that was different." Different? "To play through a concerto every week is great practice."

Would she have had it any other way? "I don't know about that. I don't have any regrets, if that's what you mean. I just felt there was never enough time. The most difficult thing was learning how to say no gracefully. And I had to figure that out for myself. Yes, there were difficult times. But I've always accepted that as part of life. Things come and go. It's helpful to know that."

One of the reasons there is never enough time is that Midori bites voraciously on



The singularly named Midori: tense, hyper-alert and constantly self-monitoring, in interview as in performance

life. While her colleagues drink, party, celebrate after a concert, Midori will be returning to her room to study. Not the next concerto but, in all likelihood, the declensions of Old High German, or the relationship between apartheid and children in South Africa. Three years ago, she became a part-time student of New York University, reading for a Bachelors degree, and taking two courses per semester. "I study mainly in the spring and the fall. It grounds me. Really calms me down. You know, one of my dogs is called Willa, after my favourite American author, Willa Cather..."

And just in case a vacant half-minute should occur in her life, Midori has set up a charitable educational foundation called Midori and Friends. She is happier talking

about this, it seems, than anything else. "I wanted desperately to share what had meant so much to me. Growing up in New York, I knew that many schools no longer had any music programme at all. Through music, my own eyes were opened to literature, history, geography. I don't aim to make professional musicians out of these children, but simply to open more doors to them."

Each school receives a series of five concert-presentations, backed up by advance material and follow-up workshops. The foundation, now a

\$500,000 operation with a full-time, handpicked staff, is supported by both corporate and charitable backers, and now reaches 22 schools in all five New York boroughs. The work is clearly a two-way process. "I can only share," says Midori, "when I am accepted by the person I am trying to share with. These children accept me as a friend, accept my music."

It is above all the quality of communication which she looks forward to in her forthcoming London concert. "Sir Colin Davis is a person of total honesty and sincerity. And the

sense of spontaneity and freedom he brings to music-making is supported by such a strong musical intellect. This has an enormous effect on the way I perform. I'm often called a perfectionist. But I don't see myself that way. I'm very demanding of myself, yes. I'm very ambitious. I simply try to do the best I can — which at any time is, of course, not the best I can ever do."

Midori appears with the London Symphony Orchestra at the Barbican (0171-638 8841) tomorrow and Wednesday, and in an evening of chamber music with LSO principals on Saturday

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A Lib-Lab pact would be disaster

Conrad Russell on why his party must not enter a coalition

When the Liberal Democrats meet at Eastbourne today, we meet as the biggest third party in Europe, as the biggest third party at Westminster since 1929, and as the second party in local government. We meet united on policy to an extent remarkable in our party, let alone the other two.

Why, then, are we facing a series of anxious questions, as well as trumpeting our successes? The answer is Tony Blair, the Hale-Bopp of British politics, streaming across the heavens while everyone asks questions about him. Is he a Socialist? Is he a Liberal? Is he a Conservative? Much hangs on the answers and after five months, all answers are a form of betting. After five months in power, I thought Harold Wilson was going to lead a great reforming administration.

Time will answer these questions, and we must hedge our bets till it does. Meanwhile, we need to trust each other and put over an excellent set of policies. We have earned confidence in ourselves. We have grown in 40 years from the Ruritanian to the Scotland of British politics, and a stubborn, bloody-minded sense of our own identity is part of our survival kit. We are not going to give it up. We will not go into an electoral pact: we cannot deliver our voters, let alone our activists. We will not go into a coalition on the basis of Mr Blair's present policies even if our leaders recommend it. Whether we might do so on the basis of any different policies is a hypothetical question which we do not need to answer now.

As it happens, Paddy Ashdown has come up with the perfect formula for our relations with the Government, that of issue-based co-operation. We co-operate where we agree, and oppose where we do not. Time will show how that formula will develop. We do not need to answer the question now. An attempt to take us further, if skillfully made, would split the party as completely as Lloyd George did in 1918. If it were unskillfully made, half a dozen people would go by themselves and leave the party behind them.

Our sense of our own identity rests on the very distinct party philosophy, which can be traced back to Mill and Locke. Our central concern is to try to control the abuse of power: the association of Liberalism and liberty is more than a word-play. For that reason, when we use words like "left-wing", we do not mean the same thing as Labour. Back in 1968, when the first Wilson Government was falling apart, Roy Jenkins appeared to me to be the most left-wing member of the Government. It was not a view widely shared in the Labour Party.

We do not see in Labour, old or new, any dedication to controlling the arrogance of power. When Peter Mandelson denounced Martha Kearney for not asking him the questions he wanted, we heard the voice of Brian Mahoney, Tony Blair's Church House speech to the new Labour MPs did not suggest that the need to control the executive had a

prominent place in their mission statement.

Our concern is also the spirit in which power is exercised. Constitutional reform, however welcome, is not enough: power must be exercised with humility. We hold to Mill's principle that people are normally the best judges of their own interests: "Whatever crushes individuality is despotism, by whatever name it may be called." Government may not say, like the doctors who took part in the Swedish sterilisation programme: "But it was meant for their good." That is the good intention that paves the road to hell. We hear no awareness of this in Mr Blair's words in his *Big Issue* article: "It is right to be intolerant of people homeless on the street."

Our desire to fight poverty is part and parcel of our desire to control aggression. There is a near-unanimous agreement among historians that we were never the free-market party caricatured by our opponents.

Even Mill went out of his way to say that since trade was a social act, his principle of liberty was entirely independent of his belief in free-market economics. In fact, if we think in terms of politics and not economics, there is more consistency in our 19th-century economic record than is often supposed. Our invocations of free-market theory (such as our attack on the Corn Laws) and our defences of State intervention (like regulation of health and safety at work) both rested on a common foundation of dislike of monopoly of economic power. Our cause is not minimum government: it is minimum oppression.

We do not believe that cause can be pursued within Conservative spending limits, which Kenneth Clarke told Malcolm Bruce were "for the birds". To take a few examples, so long as this Government does not restore the cut in benefit for single parents, or ends the disqualification to benefit of asylum seekers and 16- and 17-year-olds, we cannot believe it stands for minimum oppression. Liberal Democrats cannot be asked to stand up and defend such measures.

We believe State intervention may create liberty, as well as diminishing it. For example, controlling air pollution by cars will defend the liberty to breathe — which even Hobbes thought a necessary liberty. Yet the State cannot do this without providing alternative methods of travel, and making those methods safe. It will never do it within Conservative spending limits. Liberty is not aided by the sort of Labour discipline which led to a woman being discredited as a jobseeker's allowance because she was not "actively seeking work" when she had spent the week attending her husband's deathbed. We hear nothing of any change in this policy from Labour. Until they do, we cannot believe they aim at minimum oppression. Gordon Brown, by adopting Mr Clarke's spending limits, proved he was right that they were for the birds — Hitchcock's birds.

Professor Earl Russell is a Liberal Democrat spokesman in the Lords.

A wafer-thin majority was a reminder that referendum electorates can never be taken for granted

The Welsh referendum result is an historic event, not just for Wales, but for the United Kingdom as a whole. For Wales it means that there will be an assembly, but one which will remain part of the constitutional structure of the United Kingdom. With such a narrow majority on such a low poll, there is no momentum towards independence, whatever may be true in Scotland. For Britain, it is a failure for the project of constitutional "modernisation", which would have followed devolution in Scotland and Wales with the partition of England, the adoption of the German system of proportional election, and integration within Europe.

The drop in support in Wales for an assembly was astonishing. In May, the three left-of-centre parties won roughly 80 per cent of the vote; in September they campaigned together for a "yes" vote on devolution, and could obtain only 50 per cent of the votes on a much smaller turnout. Their actual vote in Wales fell by half. This was not the result of any brilliant Conservative campaign: by a strategic misjudgment, the Conservatives put most of their campaign effort into Scotland, where they were bound to lose. Their campaign in Wales was relatively feeble, where they might have won.

The Welsh result means that Tony Blair cannot rely on further referendums to give him the answers that he would like. Presumably the Government will still win the referendum on a mayor for London, because Londoners probably do want to have their own mayor. Labour will not, however, win that referendum merely by appealing to party loyalty. No one can yet tell what the result of a referendum on a single currency would be. As the result would be unpredictable, Mr Blair cannot allow Gordon Brown to go too far: a decision to join the euro which was repudiated in a referendum is one of

The Welsh deliver a lesson in mortality

the things that could destroy the Government. It has become too risky. The Welsh vote also makes it much harder, if not impossible, to break up England into regional assemblies. If an assembly cannot win a reasonable majority in Wales, which is a nation, nobody can rely on winning a majority in the East or West Midlands, which certainly are not nations. The English regional project would be difficult enough in any case. The people of Cornwall do not want to be governed from Bristol, nor does Manchester or Liverpool want to be governed from the other city.

The electoral reform proposal is also much more difficult after the Welsh result. If, as will be the case of the Scottish parliament, the United Kingdom Parliament had been elected since the war on the German system, the Liberals would have decided which of the major parties formed the Government after almost every election since 1950; of course, the election results would not have been the same. There would never have been a Thatcher Government, and Britain would probably still have the high tax, large public sector, low productivity economy that we had in 1979. In Germany itself, it is far harder to make political and economic changes than it is in Britain.

English nationalists have come to fear that England is about to be destroyed as a nation, with the Labour Party pushing through the full constitutional agenda of the Liberal Democrats. That agenda

includes devolution for Scotland and Wales, regional devolution for England, a proportional electoral system, joining the single currency, and ultimately a federal European state in which Scotland, Wales and the English regions would enjoy approximately equal status to the German Länder as subordinate regions of Europe.

This is the full "modernisation" project. English nationalism is seen as an obstacle, and is therefore to be destroyed, in favour of a new Euro-

William Rees-Mogg

pean patriotism, though Scottish and Welsh nationalism would still be encouraged. The more consistent of these modernisers also want to abolish the monarchy, since the Crown is a focus of loyalty for the English as well as for the United Kingdom.

One cannot say that this project has disappeared because of the narrowness of the Welsh vote, though it has been made much harder to achieve. Except for the abolition of the monarchy, it remains the official policy of the Liberal Party, but depends for success entirely on the Labour Party.

the shore, well armed; the women were running through the ranks of the men, in their mourning clothes, with their hair falling about their ears, and carrying burning torches, like the furies out of hell. The Druids lifted up their hands to heaven and poured out curses." Thus, the ancestors of Lloyd George lost their liberties to the ancestors of Garibaldi.

The Welsh are still a small nation, and, as the referendum vote showed, a divided one. Their population is only a 20th of the United Kingdom as a whole. The sense of Welsh national identity has been preserved in culture and language, rather than in law or politics. The culture is spiritual as well as aesthetic: the Welsh are a singing people whose songs have often also been prayers. They are now much mixed with the English, just as the English are themselves a mixed people, with many mainly Celtic families among them.

The referendum shows that Wales does not divide, as had been supposed between north and south, so much as between east and west, between those people who live close to England and those who live further away. Complete separation from England would be artificial, and would damage both nations.

Nevertheless, they are two nations. Welshness is a reality which has to be respected. The Welsh assembly ought to have more power rather than less, particularly in the cultural area. As has been suggested, the assembly ought to have power to regulate the terrestrial broadcasting channels. MTV, half Cardiff, half Bristol, is an unfortunate hybrid: BBC Wales should be given independent status, as should BBC Scotland, while continuing to draw on BBC resources. For Wales it is the culture that matters most, and the Welsh assembly can contribute to its preservation.

Little brother is watching you

Ashdown is central to the success of Blair's reforms, says Peter Riddell



Paddy Ashdown needs the friendly hand of Tony Blair far more in the short-term than Labour needs the support of the Liberal Democrats. But, in the long-term, Mr Ashdown and his party could be central to Mr Blair's attempt to reshape the centre-left of British politics. That is why Mr Ashdown is so excited, and so impatient with the doubters in his own party — some of whom were already surfacing in Eastbourne yesterday at the start of the Lib Dem conference.

Mr Ashdown is right to argue that British politics is in a state of metamorphosis. Or, to use a metaphor more suited to his bristly, military style of leadership, a great game is afoot — and he is determined that the Lib Dems should be players in it.

The terms of that game are being determined by Mr Blair, but much remains opaque. His aim is to recreate the broad progressive alliance which sustained the reforms of the pre-First World War Liberal Government. As Roy Jenkins, Lib Dem leader in the Lords and a Blair mentor, said in *The Observer* of the Prime Minister: "One of his strongest desires is to heal the split on the centre-left which has existed since 1914 and made the 20th century overwhelmingly a Tory century in a way the 19th century was not, and the 21st century need not be." But how?

At one level, this means the kind of one-nation, big-tent inclusiveness which has been Mr Blair's hallmark — seeking to maximise public support by involving businessmen and others not associated with old Labour. The same spirit saw Mr Blair promise legislation on a proportional

system of elections to the European Parliament and, boldest of all, to set up a consultative Cabinet committee with senior Lib Dems, which met for the first time last week.

Mr Ashdown is engaged in a delicate balancing act, which he has called "constructive opposition". This means co-operating with Labour where there is agreement, as on most of the constitutional reform agenda, but robustly opposing the Government where there is disagreement, as over the level of spending on education and the NHS.

Such criticism has already led to muttering about "responsibility and consistency" from Labour machine men like Peter Mandelson. The real issue is one of tone, avoiding the sanctimonious attitude of many Liberal Democrats which so infuriates Mr Blair. Mr Ashdown used to

RIDDLELL ON MONDAY

be guilty, but has been notably restrained in his comments about Labour since May 1.

Some Blair allies see co-operation as a means of ensuring Lib Dem support for the Government at times of unpopularity, and possibly also as a basis for a more formal alliance after the next election. That is the precisely the fear of many Lib Dems, particularly those fighting Labour in the big cities of the North, who point to how the old Liberal Party suffered in 1979 from the Lib-Lab pact of 20 years ago. But it is an illusion to pretend that the Lib Dems can ever gain from being hostile to Labour. If the Blair Government does badly, so will the Lib Dems.

However, unlike 1977-78, Mr

Ashdown can already point to lasting gains from co-operation with Labour. The proposals for a PR system of elections to the new legislatures in Scotland and Wales, and for the European elections, virtually guarantee a larger Lib Dem representation. Moreover, as Lord Jenkins of Hillhead has said, the two parties will have to work together in a coalition in Edinburgh to ensure a coherent majority. I believe the promise of PR, avoiding a permanent Labour majority, was crucial to the success of the "yes" vote. Labour leaders in Scotland are already talking about introducing PR in local government there.

Important though these changes are, they are merely a preliminary to the big question: PR for Westminster. Mr Blair has promised a commission to be set up soon to produce a

proportional alternative to first-past-the-post in a choice to be put to voters later in the parliament. Mr Blair is himself famously "not persuaded" of PR and Labour is deeply divided on the issue.

Mr Blair has to decide what his talk of a pluralist, non-tribal style of politics really means. Is he envisaging a reshaping of the boundaries of "new" Labour to include sympathetic Lib Dems and possibly also some pro-European Tories, and shedding some socialist fundamentalists in the process? Or is he prepared to make the leap, via electoral reform, to a multi-party style of politics?

Richard Holme, the Lib Dem's most acute strategist, summed up the choice in his *Reformer* lecture last night: the challenge for Mr Blair and his colleagues is whether they "sincerely believe in pluralism, or do you want to create a new Labour hegemony?" Is it sharing of power or a takeover? Several of Mr Blair's allies remain tribalists, even authoritarians, by temperament and favour the latter. They anyway argue that the two parties have converged on big policy issues.

As Conrad Russell argues on this page, the Lib Dems do have a separate identity and roots. They have made a distinctive contribution on constitutional reform and issues of civil liberty which has enriched British politics. But, as some Lib Dem MPs will show this week, there is a risk of sounding "purer than thou" in an effort to place themselves to the left of Mr Blair. Yet Lib Dems have to accept the consequences of their desire for electoral reform. As Lord Holme argued, "anyone who campaigns for PR but rules out coalition in any circumstances is suffering from a serious logic deficit."

This week's conference will show how far the Lib Dems are willing to share their leader's determination to be bold. There are obvious risks and pitfalls. Tribal and adversarial instincts run deep. But the potential prizes are huge. Mr Blair and Mr Ashdown have the chance to keep the Tories out of office for a very long time.

Red revolution

TONY Blair's determination to ditch Labour's red image has gone too far: red boxes, in which ministers have transported documents relating to matters of State for more than 250 years, are on the verge of being abolished.

They are to be replaced by sturdy black crates. "Labour ministers travel on trains far more than Conservatives, who used to be chauffeured," explains a senior Labour source. "The red boxes are too easily identified, which poses a security risk."

While senior civil servants are said to be enraged at the abolition, sentiment counts for little with modern ministers. "No convention is safe from reform," says one. "We don't see these boxes as being historically important; we just open them wearily at the end of the day knowing we've got to read the contents by morning." Steven Norris, a minister in the last Government, once referred to his as "an extraordinarily effective contraceptive pill".

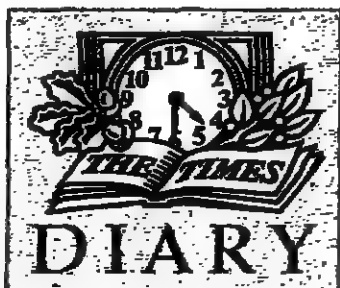
The rot set in with David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, who found the regulation cases too

small for his bulky braille documents, so lobbied successfully for a more capacious design.

Perhaps it is just as well. In his *Diaries* Alan Clark described a train journey down to Folkestone where he made the acquaintance of a "plump young lady" whose "delightful globes bounced promi-



— Geoff Thompson —
"When did you last see your father?"



nently". Afterwards he asked: "Am I crazy? Death wish? Above us in the luggage rack the red box gleamed like a beacon."

Focused

A FURTHER reading from *The Dean's Diaries*, by the Rev Trevor Beeson, Dean of Winchester. Having dealt with the Duchess of York, he now turns to Diana, Princess of Wales, whom he remembers escorting after a service at Westminster Abbey.

"The press were there in full force and I was amazed by all the clicking of cameras," he writes. "I asked her if this bothered her." At which the Princess replied, "I would be much more worried if they were not interested."

● An embarrassed silence pervades the set of the Australian TV programme *A Current Affair*, where the car crash which killed Diana, Princess of Wales, is being reconstructed. Driving an E-class Mercedes at speeds of 120mph proved too much for even the most sober of stuntmen: barely had they left the studio than it ricocheted out of control, narrowly missing the head cameraman.

Agent MacX

AFTER two centuries of exile and disgrace, the MacFarlane clan is looking to an American film star to clear its tarnished name. The clan, based in America after being banished from Scotland in the 18th century for cattle-rustling, has heralded David Duchovny, alias Agent Mulder of the *X-Files*, as its new chief. "Our quest was to find someone of proper lineage," says Richard Miller, the president of the MacFarlane Society in North Kentucky. "Someone who was commanding."

Back on the grouse moors, the mood is circumspect. "We've had endless pretenders to the lost chiefdom," says the Lord Lyon, Sir Malcolm Innes. "I look forward to receiving his Undifferentiated Arms



Duchovny: clan call of MacFarlane and proof of his lineage thereof.

Pint sighs

PITY a Mr Ad'Obe Obe, who is organising the Commonwealth Conference, Africa at 40, in London next month. Not much to celebrate, one might imagine, with famine, civil war and uncontrollable crime ravaging much of the continent. But delegates have been cheered by Guinness, which is sending over

2,000 bottles brewed at its Lagos plant. "Muslims drink it back home because they refuse to accept it contains any alcohol," enthuses Mr Obe.

Shrink rap

GLOOM and despair blight the horizon of beleaguered "Wee-Will-y" Hague, who is said to be verging on a major identity crisis. According to the psychologist Oliver James, the Tory leader "lacks a sense of authentic self" and should book a session on his couch. "It's very odd to address a party conference aged 16," says James, who once reduced Peter Mandelson to tears. "He wanted to be a crowd-pleaser, not an adolescent. The attacks on his leadership tell him he is not coming up to the standards he set himself at an early age." This could be one of politics' shorter careers. "He will suffer a collapse in his levels of serotonin," opines James. "It happened to John Major after Black Wednesday and he was deeply miserable during the rest of his leadership."

Testing times

JUST as he was convincing us that



Making up: Bowie and Iman

he has turned respectable, David Bowie has been used by Iman, his model wife, to test make-up she has devised for a new cosmetics line. But the rock star's renowned penchant for cross-dressing appears to have paled.

"David doesn't wear much make-up any more, save for a little mascara and eyeshadow," says his wife. "There isn't even a feather box in his cupboard."

P.H.S



CROWDED AT THE CENTRE

Liberal Democrats struggle to remain distinctive

This week in Eastbourne, Liberal Democrats gathering for their party conference will claim to have much to cheer. In May, they more than doubled their parliamentary representation to 46 MPs; and despite holding just a tenth of Labour's seats, they have won a chance to shape the Government's constitutional reform programme through the joint Labour/Liberal Democrat cabinet committee. Yet party members' outward exuberance masks a deeper disquiet. Is their leader flying, like Icarus, too close to the Labour Party's sun? Will the party find its support melting away if it operates too closely with the Government?

Despite winning many more seats in the last election, the Lib Dems saw their share of the vote fall, as it has in every election since 1983. The party may now be better at targeting winnable seats. And the electorate is becoming increasingly adept at tactical voting. But, with a Government already enacting almost all the policies for which the centre party has traditionally stood, there must be a danger that its voters will defect en masse to Labour at the next election.

As well as their small core of supporters, the Lib Dems could in the past count on votes from two sources: disaffected Tories who dared not make the leap straight across to Labour; and those who wanted the Lib Dems to act as a moderating force on Labour in Government. But now that the party is attacking Labour from the Left, it cannot for much longer be seen as the less radical option. And now that Tony Blair is running an extremely moderate administration, there seems no need for the Lib Dems to act as a restraining force upon him.

If anything, the "centre" party is urging him to throw off restraint. The Lib Dems want Labour to raise taxes and to spend more on the public services. The party that used to be proud of backing policies that were unpopular but right is now criticising

Labour for replacing student grants with loans — the first hard policy decision that Mr Blair has had to take. Far from moderating the Government, the Lib Dems see themselves as the "conscience" of the Labour Party, a sort of corporate Tony Benn.

As the centre ground has been occupied by Labour, it is understandable why the Liberal Democrats have lurched to the Left to remain distinctive. But it is harder to see how this will win votes. Will working-class northerners, dismayed by Mr Blair's lack of socialism, really embrace Paddy Ashdown instead? This is unlikely, not only because of the tribal nature of left-wing politics, but also because the Lib Dems' views are already represented in the Labour Party. It is just that, with the discipline now exerted on dissident Labour MPs, they are rarely heard in public.

Moreover, many of the differences between the two parties may have been narrowed by the time of the next election. After two years of spending restraint, Gordon Brown is likely to put more money into education and health, and may be able to do so without raising taxes. Jack Straw may turn out to be less cavalier with civil liberties than the Liberal Democrats fear. On the environment, ministers could adopt a greener agenda; and on Europe, they could call a referendum on the single currency.

What then would divide the two parties? Electoral reform is still a sticking point (although advocates of proportional representation are sprinkled throughout the Government). But there is every chance of a referendum on the subject before this Parliament is out. Winning that poll represents the best chance for the Liberal Democrats to retain an identity. Under the first-past-the-post system, which favours big parties and penalises the small, there may be little rationale for the Lib Dems' continued separate existence.

PANGLOSS IN HONG KONG

World finance ministers can feel satisfied, but not complacent

Finance ministers and central bankers are paid to worry: about inflation, recession, unemployment, financial crises and disappointing growth. They could be forgiven, nevertheless, for the hint of self-satisfaction evident this weekend at the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund in Hong Kong. Most parts of the world economy are in better shape today than they have been at any time since the 1973 oil crisis. America, Britain, China, Latin America and central Europe are all enjoying robust growth, accompanied by moderate inflation and increasingly abundant jobs. There are serious difficulties in western Europe, Japan and South-East Asia, as well as in the perennial jagged regions of the world economy: Africa and the former Soviet states. But even these troubled countries show signs of hope, or at least of greater clarity about what needs to be done.

In Europe, by far the biggest of the underperforming regions, the single currency project is at last approaching its denouement. While the concept of tying together economies as diverse as Germany and Portugal in one monetary straitjacket remains as misconceived as ever, the worst of the short-term damage resulting from the EMU launch is probably now behind. The apparent willingness to accept Italy, Spain and Portugal as founder members of the single currency may store up serious trouble for the future. But, in the short term, the resolution of EMU uncertainties must be good news. If interest rates throughout Europe now converge towards the very low levels in Germany and France, as the IMF suggests, this should provide a powerful boost to economic activity in countries like Italy, Spain and Ireland. More importantly, the end of the single currency debate may help to concentrate the minds of European

politicians on issues such as labour flexibility and financial deregulation, which have been overwhelmed by the EMU obsession.

The outlook for South-East Asia may also be less gloomy than a cursory reading of recent news and statistics suggests. While the wounded "tiger" economies are bound to need a period of convalescence after their recent devaluations and stockmarket crises, their prospects for long-run growth remain unimpaired. The crises could even benefit the region in the long run by forcing governments to reassess extravagant infrastructure projects and by exposing the political cronyism endemic in many of their financial practices. Significantly the other Asian leaders in Hong Kong went out of their way to dissociate themselves from the campaign run by Mahathir Mohamad, the Malaysian Prime Minister, to try to blame the region's troubles on the "immoral" forces of world capitalism and the West's "unscrupulous profiteers". In Russia, too, and in parts of Africa, politicians seem to be showing a better understanding of the way free markets operate and of the long-run benefits they can bring.

What, then, are the main clouds on the economic horizon? In the most successful economies — America and Britain — growth seems to be approaching its non-inflationary limits (although it has not yet reached them), while financial markets are booming. In Japan, by contrast, the economy is slipping back into its six-year long depression while shares still stand at less than half their value at the 1989 peak. In Europe, there is the ever-present danger that inflexibility and regulation will turn the single currency experiment into a disaster. The view from Hong Kong may look rosy but, thinking ahead to the next IMF annual meeting, there should be plenty for finance ministers to worry about.

AQUATIC MELODRAMA

In the Amazon careless oars catch worse things than a crab

The Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race up the Amazon was bound to be a piece of theatre of the old Empire. It was billed to be as exotic as *The Flying Dutchman* sung in the Manaus Opera House. But for both Oxford and Cambridge to sink set a world record for aquatic melodrama. As we report today, waves created by the flotilla of following spectators swamped both British eights, and the race was won by the Amazonian crew.

The Amazon is the largest and wildest river of the imagination. Beside it, the Thames is a trickle. The careless oar can catch worse things than a crab in the Amazon. The cox of the winning crew might well have objected to being thrown in after the race, even though it has to be admitted, that the Thames contains urban perils quite as noxious as piranhas and mosquitos. Even on the Thames, Oxford and Cambridge have each sunk three times, though never before in the same race. And in 1984 the Cambridge cox steered flat out into a moored barge under Putney Bridge, thus wrecking the boat and causing the race to be rowed on a Sunday for the first time. At least up the Amazon course there are no bridges or bends for the strategists to worry about.

But in spite of yesterday's fiasco, the Boat Race still demonstrated the qualities that have made it Britain's strangest tribal ritual. This most popular sporting contest goes

back to the age when half the rainbow-coloured world was ruled by Blues. Its result is usually clear long before the finish, but seldom so long before as yesterday. When they rowed it on the Nile, the race was won by a short head by a dead camel. Boatmen on the Amazon look where they are going, rather than rowing blindly backwards on a craft flimsier than a canoe. And they prefer to row downstream rather than on the flowing tide.

But the huge crowd yesterday caught the magic of a remarkable event. Far less than one per cent of the United Kingdom has attended Oxford or Cambridge as undergraduates. And of those only one in ten has pulled an oar for pleasure. But the old race on the Thames midway attracts national and international partisanship in its annual river party.

So the Boat Race up the Amazon has spread the British invention of play taken in deadly earnest. And it has given a good example of stiff upper lips in the soup and congratulations when the home side wins. Up the Amazon at Manaus not many spectators can yet have had a personal affiliation with light or dark blue. But most of them will have understood the hard work involved. Rowing the Boat Race is equivalent to lifting 50lb from feet to neck 34 times a minute — for 20 minutes or until the boat sinks.

Party responds to Clark's concerns

From Mr Michael Trend, MP, Deputy Chairman of the Conservative Party

Sir, Alan Clark's letter (September 20) about the ballot of the Conservative Party's membership suggests that the linking together of endorsement for William Hague and for his principles of reform is like asking voters to sign a blank cheque. This is wrong in two important respects.

First, William Hague has made it clear that his leadership is indivisible from the principles on which he believes the party must reform. He has explicitly told the party as a whole to "back me, or sack me". William Hague does not believe he can modernise the party unless he has a mandate to take forward reforms based on the principles he has proposed.

Second, the principles are not confined merely to six words: unity, democracy, decentralisation, involvement, integrity and openness. In a series of speeches that the party leader is currently making to members around the country, and in the leaflet which was enclosed with every ballot paper, he is adding greater breadth to his ideas. For example, he has said that we will no longer accept foreign money and will publish the names of major donors.

But it would be wrong to go further than this at the moment. As Lord Parkinson, the party chairman, has recently made clear in a letter to all party associations, we are only at the very start of reform. This ballot is the first of many stages in the process; what is being sought now is the party's consent to move forward to the next stage. There will be substantial opportunity for debate at the party conference next month, followed by the widest consultation throughout the party. Then, and only then, when all the many issues have been gone over in detail, will decisions be made — and by the party as a whole.

Conservatives have no need, as has Labour, to obscure traditional principles. We have a clear, consistent and enduring set of beliefs. What we cannot ignore, however, is that we have lost the ability to express our beliefs in a persuasive way to the voters. We must once again connect more directly with the British people and free ourselves from the perception that we have become remote and out of touch.

We Conservatives owe it to the country to be a strong, well-organised opposition, ready to redress the damage which will surely come from a Labour Government in the years ahead. To prepare ourselves for serving the nation in office, and offering it clear leadership, we must first put our own house in order.

The order of the day is: change or oblivion. William Hague has a clear and consistent vision for change. The party must grasp it and work through the details, or face the inevitable consequences.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL TREND,
Conservative Central Office,
32 Smith Square, SW1,
September 20.

From Mr Norman Lamont

Sir, No one can surely doubt that the organisation of the Conservative Party, so pitifully exposed in the general election, needs renewal and reshaping. Our campaigning techniques need to be improved and our membership vastly increased.

William Hague has rightly made this a top priority. But he recognises that organisation is a means, not an end in itself. It is the means of communicating to the country the traditional Conservative values which Alan Clark rightly says we need to rediscover.

But Alan Clark's fears are misplaced. The vote of party members on the principles of reform is only the beginning of a process, not the conclusion of it. The remarkable thing is that a vote of all members is happening. Of course we must not let Labour or become a centralised party. But there is plenty of scope for further consultation on these matters, as I know the leadership intends.

In view of recent criticism of William Hague perhaps I could add that he was my PPS during three difficult years [1990-93]. I always told friends then that one day he would become leader of the Conservative Party. It happened much sooner than I expected. But the country, the Conservative Party and Mr Blair will soon discover, as I did, his formidable qualities.

Yours sincerely,
NORMAN LAMONT,
14 Kensington Park Road, W11,
September 20.

New Cornish horror

From Mrs Catharine Boyd Brent

Sir, Until I read your report and leading article of September 11, I was not aware of the existence of the rogue fox reputedly biting the tourists and locals in Mousehole, near Penzance. However, I suggest that its presence can do nothing but good for the Cornish tourist industry.

We already have the Beast of Exmoor and the Bodmin Moor big cat — both great attractions for the "grockles" in search of thrills as well as pasties. A warm welcome for the "foxy smile" of Mousehole!

Yours faithfully,
CATHARINE BOYD BRENT,
Church Water Cottage, Ashreigney,
Chulmleigh, North Devon.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Injustice of public-sector pay freeze

From Dr Alan B. Shrank

Sir, Each time public-sector pay is depressed for political reasons, the eventual catching-up with private-sector pay becomes an increasing embarrassment ("Doctors call for a 10 per cent rise in their salaries", report, September 17). Mrs Thatcher refused to sanction appropriate salary rises for MPs and Cabinet members, hoping to set an example to public-sector workers. Tony Blair is emulating her — but one day the bill must be paid.

The more serious aspect of reducing the recommendations of the review bodies for public servants is the failure to attract adequately motivated and qualified staff. The exodus of newly qualified nurses from the NHS (now a 40 per cent loss), the early retirement of senior teachers as soon as they can draw an adequate pension, the failure both to recruit UK doctors at all levels and to retain senior doctors in either general or hospital practice — all are a direct consequence of devaluing these occupations.

As staffing levels decline the workload on those remaining rises, and the ability to attract suitable staff declines still further. There must be a point of no return, and this can only mean the public will have to turn to private facilities to obtain the quality of service they expect. It is absurd to promise high-quality teaching and medical care without properly rewarding those who are to provide it.

To expect teachers, doctors and

nurses to forgo warranted salary rises in order to fund services is no longer a sacrifice most are prepared to bear. They will avoid the moral blackmail not by striking but by voting with their feet.

Yours sincerely,
ALAN B. SHRANK
(Vice-President, Hospital Consultants and Specialists Association),
20 Crescent Place,
Town Walls, Stretford,
September 19.

From Dr T. R. G. Howard

Sir, Amidst the appeals for workers of all types to accept pay rises in line with inflation, I wish someone would spare a thought for those public-sector workers who are forced by circumstances to take a pay cut.

Like all general practitioners, I am self-employed. I am trapped between escalating costs, rising demand and pegged pay from a monopoly purchaser. Either I pay my staff the going rate, and bear the cost myself, or I restrict the service I supply.

This year, my partners and I have chosen the former course, and are facing a 12 per cent pay cut as a consequence. Remember that when you next need your family doctor.

Yours faithfully,
T. R. G. HOWARD,
Woodside Farm, Brickyard Lane,
Corfe Mullen, Wimborne, Dorset,
September 17.

Musical neighbours

From Ms Judith Hendershott

Sir, Contrary to your front page report ("Hendrix joins Handel with pop's first blue plaque", September 15), the Handel House Trust is delighted that the Jimi Hendrix plaque at number 23 Brook Street, in central London, has joined that of his neighbour George Frideric Handel.

By a quirk of fate two world-famous musicians — both of them foreign-born — lived in adjacent buildings in London, 200 years apart. The trust, which is establishing a Handel museum in 23 and 25 Brook Street, wishes also to commemorate Jimi Hendrix.

Certain parallels can be drawn between the two composer-musicians: both Handel and Hendrix experimented with instrumental effects and pursued maximum sound volume for its emotional effects upon their audiences. Handel was commissioned to accompany outdoor public events such as the Royal Fireworks; Hendrix played at Monterey and the Isle of Wight. Hendrix spoke of his interest in classical music, including that of Bach and Handel.

The trustees are involved in plans to recreate the principal room in the flat where Hendrix lived from 1968-69, where the public will be able to view, working closely with Kathy Erchingham, who shared the flat with Hendrix. The arrival of the Hendrix plaque should help draw attention to the current state of the buildings and to the urgency of restoring them.

Yours sincerely,
JUDITH HENDERSHOTT,
JH Arts Management,
4 Bennett Park,
Blackheath, SE3,
September 16.

In faith we trust

From the Reverend Julian Barker

Sir, The credibility of our modern world (letter, September 16) was succinctly described by Geoffrey Elton in his inaugural lecture as Professor of English Constitutional History at Cambridge in 1968.

This is not a day of scepticism, this is not a day of unbelief. We are living in one of the ages of faith, and that the faith is not attached to institutionalised religion does not disprove the point that I have just made. On the contrary: it renders the faith more varied, more easy... Everything is a matter of faith, nothing is a matter of reason... The world is littered with prophets and gurus.

Yours faithfully,
JULIAN BARKER,
Repton Vicarage, Repton, Derby,
September 16.

Making a meal of it

From Mr Christopher Moseley

Sir, The Central Intelligence Agency's recipe book (report and leading article, September 19) reminds me of an occasion in 1991 when, with my wife and a friend, I visited a restaurant in Rhinebeck, north of New York City.

Before booking a table, we asked what type of cuisine the restaurant served and were met with the alarming reply: "Sir, all our chefs are CIA trained."

We found later that the headquarters of the Culinary Institute of America were only half a mile away. The meal was superb.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER MOSELEY,
Cobblers Cottage,
Roxeth Hill, Harrow, Middlesex,
September 19.

Sport letters, page 36

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.
e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Factors at play in bishops' selection

From the Reverend David Dale

Sir, I suspect that the news that the Prime Minister has turned down the names put forward by the Crown Appointments Commission for the new bishop for the diocese of Liverpool (letters, September 16 and 18) will be greeted with relief by most clergy and laity.

The appointment of politically correct liberals of all parties to the bench under the primacy of Dr Runcie and Dr Carey has seen a collapse in vocations, a startling loss in average Sunday attendances and a financial collapse. The situation is critical and anyone with half an eye would realise that this is the judgment of God on the Church of England.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID DALE,
All Saints' Vicarage,
Ryde, Isle of Wight,
September 18.

From Dr the Reverend Presbyter Robert Chatterji de Massey

Sir, The Reverend Prebendary Patrick Dearnley (letter, September 18) says that congregations throughout the diocese of Liverpool have been praying for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in the appointment of a new bishop. Undoubtedly they have, and rightly so; but what leads him to suppose that the Prime Minister, a dedicated Christian, may not also have been on his knees and that he too has the ear of the Holy Spirit?

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT DE MASSEY,
Clare House,
Witchford, Ely, Cambridgeshire.

From the Bishop of Richborough

Sir, Small wonder that the friends of the Crown Appointments Commission's Secretary welcome a new bishop appointed under the present system (letter, September 18). It is the ones who are not his friends who concern me — a great deal of the time.

Yours etc,
TEDWIN RICHBORO,
14 Hall Place Gardens,
St Albans, Hertfordshire,
September 18.

From Miss Linda Craft

Sir, I read your leader of September 16, "Blair and the bishops", with amusement. It is reassuring to know that *The Jupiter* is still thriving.

LINDA CRAFT,
34 Kelvin Close, Cambridge,
September 18.

Church decline

From Mr Daniel Gallimore

Sir, Damian Thompson's article (September 13) suggests that, as we approach a new millennium, spirituality isn't in decline, only the churches.

Even more than his evangelistic role, I believe the primary rationale of the Church of England is the nourishment of its numbers, from whom it derives a large part of its income. The image of the Church as staid is itself old-fashioned when, as your "At your service" column (Weekend) has amply illustrated, it is now a broader church than ever before.

The decline in membership has more to do with the seed falling on barren ground and among thorns than any failure on the part of the Church, whose future lies securely in the hands of God.

Yours faithfully,
DANIEL GALLIMORE,
Fern Cottage, Stewkley,
Nr Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire,
September 13.

Speaking for all

From Mr Frank Sutton

Sir, The allegation (report and leading article, September 15) that Mr Blair made political capital out of the tragic death of the Princess may or may not be true. What is a deplorable fact is that he chose, or agreed, to read the lesson in the funeral service — a task which should surely have fallen to the Speaker as the representative of all the parties in the House of Commons.

Yours faithfully,
FRANK SUTTON,
Knyppesley,
126 Barnett Wood Lane,
Ashted, Surrey,
September 15.

Role reversal

From Mrs Ingrid Cranfield

Sir, Figures in British life have often complained of a propensity to be compartmentalised. A surgeon may not also be an artist, for example. Suddenly, in the last few weeks, we see that this is no longer true.

We have observed the Prime Minister giving social counsel to the Queen, the Archbishop of Canterbury giving political support and solace to the trade unions and Elton John giving spiritual advice to the nation. What next? Will Linford Christie devise a new dress code for clerics?

I rather like a country in which everybody can be someone else for a while.

Yours faithfully,
INGRID CRANFIELD,
16 Myddelton Gardens,
Wichmore Hill, N21.

OBITUARIES

DOUGLAS BENNETT

Dr Douglas Bennett, psychiatrist, died on August 31, aged 79. He was born on August 4, 1918.

DOUGLAS BENNETT was the last of a generation of British social psychiatrists whose work began to empty the mental hospitals after the Second World War. He showed that community psychiatry could be combined with a respect for the individual patient and active plans for rehabilitation.

After qualifying as a doctor in 1940, and serving as a ship's surgeon in the Navy, Douglas Bennett went to work at the Hammersmith Hospital. There he became aware of the importance of basing medical practice on the results of research.

After training in psychiatry under Maxwell Jones and T. P. Rees, he was appointed to his first consultant post at the Netherne Hospital, Coudon.

The graded industrial workshops there were at the time the basic model for helping patients to adjust to life outside hospital. But work on the nature of institutionalisation by John Wing, George Brown and others from the Medical Research Council had a profound effect on Bennett's later thinking.

By 1962, when he joined the Maudsley Hospital at Denmark Hill, it was clear that



times were changing, and that there would be increasing emphasis on community psychiatry. Bennett looked after the day hospital, the outpatients and the emergency clinic, and supervised junior doctors. He soon took on a case-load of his own.

He was responsible for several important changes. The nature of the day hospital changed radically, and a realistic industrial workshop made its appearance. The Maudsley took on responsibility for a full catchment area, working with the local authority, and ceased to confine itself to unusual cases and first episodes of illness.

Chronic patients were moved from the old mental hospitals to the Maudsley, and the first "ward in a house", or "hostel ward", soon followed. With John Wing's help, a new unit for local patients was opened.

Bennett was unusual in working in a constructive way with psychologists, on whom he relied for much of the theoretical thinking that underpinned his work with severely disabled patients. The book he wrote with Fraser Watts about psychiatric rehabilitation remains influential.

After his retirement in 1983, Bennett advised several foreign governments about improvements in their mental health services. At home, he was concerned by the shortage of money for care in the community programmes in inner cities.

Douglas Bennett had two daughters by his first marriage, as well as a son who died of cancer at the age of seven. A happy second marriage was ended by the death of his wife, also from cancer. He is survived by his third wife, Thelma, and his two daughters.

The Hon Mrs Margaret Joan Price, of Frankton, Rugby, Warwickshire, left estate valued at £1,517,474 net.

Lady Gille, of London SW7, left estate valued at £125,000 net.

Viscountess Camrose (the former Princess Joan Aly Khan), of London SW1, left estate valued at £3,374,803 net.

Kathlyn, Lady Lacom, of Southwold, Suffolk, left estate valued at £73,502 net.

Sir Jocelyn Bodilly, former chairman of Industrial Tribunals for London South 1976-86, of Newlyn, Cornwall, left estate valued at £1,269,081 net.

Lady Murray, of Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire, left estate valued at £208,518 net.

Sir John Wordie, barrister, of Brecon, Pembrokeshire, Hampshire, left estate valued at £498,197 net.

Sir John Watson Cameron, President of J W Cameron and Co since 1977, of Cowesby Hall, Thirsk, North Yorkshire, left estate valued at £1,046,289 net.

Andrew Fountaine, Norfolk landowner and a founder of the National Front, died on September 14 aged 78. He was born on December 7, 1918.

In one respect Andrew Fountaine is assured of his niche as a footnote in political history. At the general election of February 1950, while standing as a Conservative at Chorley in Lancashire, he had his candidature expressly disowned by Central Office — the very course of action at the last election which John Major always insisted was impossible in the case of Neil Hamilton and the Tanton seat.

Winston Churchill and Lord Woolton were, however, made of sterner stuff and saw no difficulty in officially repudiating a chosen Tory standard-bearer. Although he did not have a rival candidate put up against him, the then 31-year-old Fountaine was denied the right to describe himself as the Conservative candidate and had to fight instead under the label of "Independent Conservative".

That did not stop him from nearly winning the seat — collecting more than 22,000 votes and falling short by a margin of a mere 361 from capturing the constituency from Labour. It was, however, easily Fountaine's most successful electoral outing: in the three parliamentary elections he subsequently fought under the overt or covert colours of the National Front he never achieved more than 1,400 votes and forfeited his deposit on each occasion.

His troubles with the powers-that-be in the Conservative Party went back a long way. He made rabble-rousing speeches at the Conservative Party conferences of 1947 and 1948 — on the latter occasion describing Clement Attlee's postwar Labour Government as "a group of conscientious objectors, national traitors, semi-alien mongrels and hermaphrodite Communists".

This proved altogether too head a brew even for Lord Woolton, and his selection by the local association at Chorley was never endorsed by the standing advisory committee at party headquarters. What would have happened had he succeeded in winning the seat remains a moot point but, as it was, he found himself ditched by the local

ANDREW FOUNTAINE



Conservatives after his defeat and never stood as a Tory again.

Indeed, in 1959 he attracted a good deal of local opprobrium by intervening — technically as an Independent but in effect as a Nationalist — in a crucial by-election held in his own home seat of South-West Norfolk (where his vice-admiral father had been both chairman and president of the local Tory association). Although rather ambushed by his mother — the admiral's widow who announced at the outset of the contest that her son was "letting the nation down by opposing a Conservative" — he fought a vigorous campaign, while achieving only 785 votes (a figure that fortunately proved smaller than the Labour majority, so he could not be accused even by his mother of having deprived the Conservatives of a vital gain).

Andrew Douglas Algernon Maclean Fountaine came of a long-standing, landowning Norfolk family, who had settled at Narford Hall, just north-west of the market town of Swaffham. After school at Stowe, he in 1935 followed his father, who had just retired, into the Royal Navy — only to

be invalidated out within months with rheumatic fever. He then went up to Cambridge, where he read Natural Sciences while all the time trying to get back into the Navy. He went, in all, before eight naval medical boards but to no avail.

Eventually, in desperation (and after war had been declared) he got a friend, who bore a strong physical resemblance to him, to appear before a medical board in his place. The ruse worked and, to his delight, Fountaine found himself back in the Navy. Only some years later, when he was wounded in the Far East in the course of a kamikaze raid on his destroyer, was the impersonation discovered. He might well have been court-martialed but was allowed instead to retire as a commander with all his pension rights cancelled.

Fountaine's idiosyncratic approach to obstacles set in his path — and he acted in character again when, after his forced parting from the Conservative Party, he immediately founded what he called at the time the National Front Movement, setting up its headquarters in Chorley. It

proved to be a short-lived phenomenon — and it was 15 years before in 1967 Fountaine returned to the charge by taking a leading part in bringing various splinter right-wing, neo-Nazi organisations together under the new title of the National Front.

He was never its leader — people like John Tyndall and John Kingsley Read had got there before him — but he was to a large degree the movement's moneybags. Military-style camps were held in the grounds of his ancestral home at Narford Hall — with the Home Office on one occasion refusing entry permission to assorted continental fascists who had come from abroad to attend. Fountaine himself, however, was not openly anti-Semitic and this was the cause of his rupture with A. K. Chesterton, the National Front's policy director, who briefly succeeded in getting him expelled (though the High Court later reinstated him).

In the three elections he fought between 1968 and 1979 there was, though, an awful predictability about the message he sought to deliver. Already at Acton in 1968 — the by-election that first brought Kenneth Baker into the Com-

mons — he was talking of "coloured Bolshevism rolling up the last outposts of civilisation" and branding the constituency's non-white electors as "alien immigrants living one third off prostitution, one third off National Assistance and one third off Red gold". His reward was a faintly alarming 1,400 votes, or more than 5 per cent of the total poll.

After that, however, and especially with the arrival of Margaret Thatcher in the Tory leadership in 1975, it was downhill all the way for the National Front. Finally even Fountaine himself appears to have become disillusioned: although he fought Norwich South in the 1979 general election, attaining a mere 264 votes, he announced in the following year that the Front had "become antipathetic to everything I stand for". A keen environmentalist, he retired to his estate in Norfolk, where he took a great interest in the use of water resources and had planted by his death two and a quarter million trees. He served at different times on three separate tiers of local government in Norfolk. Andrew Fountaine leaves his widow Rosemary, two sons and a daughter.

GEORGES GUETARY

Georges Guétary, French singer and variety artist, died in the South of France on September 13 aged 82. He was born in Egypt on February 8, 1915.

IN A career that spanned more than half a century and ranged from Parisian cabaret and operetta to Broadway musicals and a Hollywood hit film, Georges Guétary came to epitomise the figure of the exotic Latin lover, an appealing mixture of charm, energy, mystery and romance.

Although he became one of France's most popular entertainers, and won international renown as an archetypal French crooner, Guétary was of Greek origin; his given name was Lampros Woolrou, He was born in Alexandria, growing up there and in Cairo. A hard-working student with a passion for music and athletics, he was sent to France in 1934 to study commerce. There his uncle introduced him to the distinguished violinist Jacques Thibaud, who advised him to take up singing.

He began his vocal training with Ninon Vallin and studied harmony and piano with Thibaud and Alfred Cortot, before making his debut in 1937 with the Jo Bouillon orchestra. His big break came when he was spotted by the great chanteuse Mistinguett, who, as she did with Maurice Chevalier and Jean Gabin, invited him to accompany her at the Casino de Paris.

During the war, he worked as a maître d'hôtel in Toulouse and recorded his first album with the accordionist Fredo Gardoni in 1942. This was when he put down his French roots, reflected in his decision to name himself after the Basque town of Guéthary.

His career was beginning to take off. *Honolulu, Je chante à Mexico* and other hits written by the king of French operetta, Francis Lopez, catered to the escapist fantasies of these austere times, while *Robin des Bois* took a discreet poke at the German occupying forces.

After the war, a run of successful stage shows and recordings in France was extended by appearances in *Bless the Bride* and *Latin Quarter* in London in 1947 and, in 1950, in *Arms and the Girl* on Broadway, where

Guétary won a Tony award as best foreign performer.

In 1951 came his most memorable role when he starred alongside Gene Kelly in the Vincente Minnelli film *An American in Paris*. His part — as the successful revue singer Henri Baurel — had originally been intended for Maurice Chevalier, who had apparently turned it down because the character failed to get the girl. Guétary made it his own.

Following the high point of his French career, the Lopez operetta *La Route fleurie* in 1952, Guétary continued to star in musicals throughout the 1950s and 1960s, confirming his talent for the exotic and the romantic. Ever youthful, he greeted the arrival of the French *yéyé* pop generation



with a humorous song called *Georges, viens danser le rock'n'roll*.

Known as "the eternal young man", he went on singing regularly on stage until his official farewell concert of October 5, 1987. Thereafter he gave gala performances at the rate of about 40 a year and made regular television appearances.

He returned to the end a large and devoted following, especially among elderly ladies. On January 17 last year he returned to the site of his earlier triumphs, the Bobino music theatre in Paris, for one last concert. It was a moment of collective nostalgia, with the star joining his fans in the stalls for a singalong of his greatest hits.

Guétary's final years were spent in his home at Cannes. He was married to the television director Jeanine Guyon; they had a son and a daughter.

SIR HARRY BOYNE



this new environment Boyne flourished and, having meanwhile been promoted to be Edinburgh correspondent, was in 1950 sent to the London office to become the paper's political correspondent.

In 1957 a vacancy arose for a new lobby man on *The Daily*

our MPs — Boyne must have seemed a safe pair of hands. If the paper's editor-in-chief and proprietor, Michael Berry (later Lord Hartwell), knew of his early upholding of trade union rights, he must have put it down to the rashness and impetuosity of a young man who had since grown older and wiser. This proved to be an expensive mistake.

When the *Telegraph's* own journalists came out on strike in 1975, Boyne joined the picket line and personally handed Lord Hartwell a letter of remonstrance outlining the workforce's grievances. "This brave, if eccentric, action was never forgiven by his proprietor. When Boyne retired a year later, he was given no farewell lunch and left as was often the way with employees of the paternalistic *Telegraph* of those days) with nothing approaching adequate pension arrangements.

That may well have helped to explain why, at the age of 65, he almost immediately took a job as an usher at Marylebone County Court, where his entire demeanour fitted in admirably with the dignity of the prevailing legal ambience. He gave that position up in 1978 to work part-time in the Tory press office, succeeding Gordon Reece as Central Office's director of communications in 1980, a post he held until 1982. He was

a member of the Police Complaints Commission from 1977 to 1980 and, before going to work full-time in Smith Square, was chairman of the Board of Visitors at Pentonville Prison.

Boyne would never have fitted comfortably into the contemporary world of political journalism. A reliable rather than a flashy performer, he was a throwback to a past when all lobby correspondents possessed excellent shorthand and saw it as their prime duty to get the decisions and views of politicians across to their readers. This commended them to the power structure they served. Boyne was appointed CBE seven years before he became a knight — but perhaps did rather less for a critical understanding of the political process on the part of the public outside.

A strong upholder of the sanctity and secrecy of the lobby system, Boyne always tended to bridle when younger colleagues sought to expose its abuses. A pillar of the *ancien régime*, he served as chairman of the Parliamentary Lobby Journalists, 1958-59, and chairman of the Press Gallery, 1961-62. In retirement he wrote an illustrated *History of the Houses of Parliament* (1982). He married in 1935 Margaret Templeton of Dundee. She and a daughter survive him.

Latest wills

Lady (Elise) Cazalet, of Headbourne, Worthy, Winchester, Hampshire, left estate valued at £840,193 net.

The left shares in her estate to Sussex Housing Association for the aged, the NSPCC and Burdocks.

Lady Bailey, of Worminghall, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, left estate valued at £454,529 net.

Sir Thomas Lodge, consultant radiologist United Sheffield Hospitals 1946-74, of Hove, East Sussex, left estate valued at £197,372 net.

He left £1,000 to the Royal College of Radiologists.

Lady Cooper, of Godmanchester, Cambridgeshire, left estate valued at £345,644 net.

Lady Coxon, of Torquay, Devon, left estate valued at £42,696 net.

Ellenor, Viscountess Rochdale, of Lingham, Portlisscale, Keswick, Cumbria, left estate valued at £808,132 net.

Sigmar Bernd Dunn, of London SW15, left estate valued at £2,044,165 net.

Sir Frank Hartley, Vice-Chancellor, University of London 1970-78, of Easenhall, Warwickshire, left estate valued at £218,708 net.

Lady (Doris Mary) Lickley, of Walton on Thames, Surrey, left estate valued at £301,018 net.

Jean Collison, of Stratford Tony, Salisbury, Wiltshire, left estate valued at £3,639,507 net.

She left £5,000 to the NSPCC and the Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund.

Iris Aubrey Emma Gregory, of Wimbledon, London SW19, left estate valued at £3,523,857 net.

She left £10,000 to the RNIB.

Fletcher Sydney George Codrington, of High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, left estate valued at £2,275,147 net.

He left £500 to St Mary's church, Radnage.

Lady (Stella Mary) Kirwan, of London SW11, left estate valued at £62,100 net.

Countess Olga Lea Coaky, of Blandford Forum, Dorset, left estate valued at £224,462 net.

Douglas Percival Prestwich, of London NW6, left estate valued at £5,614,653 net.

Elka Ernestine Phillips, Brighton, East Sussex, left estate valued at £1,587,593 net.

Richard George Skinner, of Wellington, Northamptonshire, left estate valued at £1,340,002 net.

He left £10,000 for the restoration of the Church of Saint Lawrence, Stanwick.

William Jobling Robinson, of High Kinghorpe, North Yorkshire, left estate valued at £2,308,466 net.

Doris Bewick, of Merrifield Hall, Darlington, Co. Durham, left estate valued at £827,451 net.

Mildred Ann Oliver, of Altrincham, Cheshire, left estate valued at £2,048,566 net.

Fred Moseley, of Cobham, Surrey, left estate valued at £1,258,599 net.

NEW ERA IN WEST GERMANY

END OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT

From Our Own Correspondent BONN, Sept. 21

The last foundation-stone of the structure of the new Republic was laid to-day, when the regime of Military Government came to an end and the Allied High Commission formally assumed office. This transition was signalled by a short and simple, but deeply significant, ceremony at the Hotel Petersberg, the seat of the Commission, standing high on a hill and commanding wide views of the Rhine valley.

Above the Petersberg flew the Tricolor, the Stars and Stripes, and the Union Jack: near the main entrance the black-red-gold flag of the republic was hoisted. A guard of honour was mounted by the military police of the three Powers, and when Dr. Adenauer, the Chancellor, arrived with a number of Ministers, he was ceremonially received with a salute.

Having introduced the Ministers, the Chancellor addressed the High Commissioners. With the Federal Parliament and Federal Government, he said, a new epoch in German history since the war had opened. They were still not wholly free, but they would do what they could to create the conditions which would

ON THIS DAY

September 22, 1949

Conrad Adenauer (1876-1967) was the first Chancellor of the Federal Republic of West Germany, an office he held until 1963. During that period the country grew from a demoralised ruin to a prosperous land that played a leading role in the founding of the European Union.

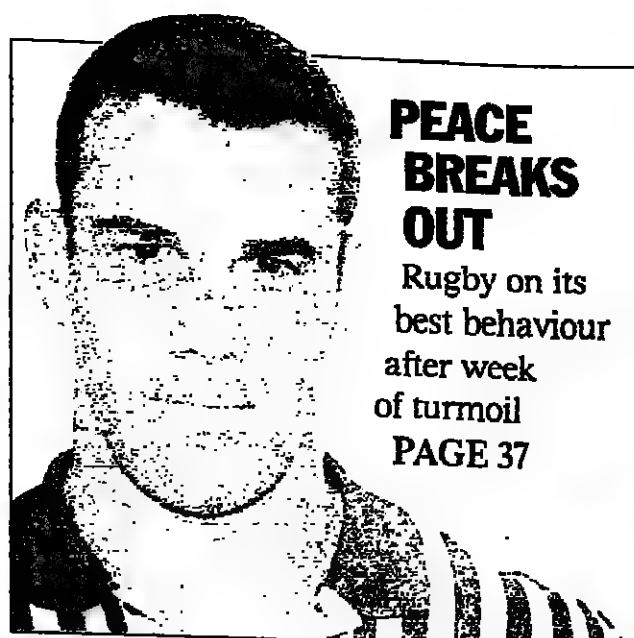
enable the occupying Powers to apply the statute in a liberal and generous manner. It was hoped that the Powers would avail themselves of their authority to revise the statute, and so hasten political development.

Dr. Adenauer said that the Federal Government would tackle first of all the great social problems. Not until they had succeeded in converting the flocks of millions of refugees into settled inhabitants would Germany enjoy internal stability. The problem of the uprooted people was international, and the Chancellor asked the High Commissioners to urge their Governments to give closer attention to it. An opportunity for creating a viable European

federation was offered by the hope that the control of the Ruhr would cease to be a one-sided arrangement and would grow into an organism embracing the basic industries of other European countries. "If," the Chancellor ended, "we return to the sources of our European civilization, born of Christianity, then we shall succeed in restoring the unity of European life in all fields of endeavour."

Mr. François Pompidou, who replied on behalf of the High Commissioners, spoke in terms of friendship and goodwill. Regretting that it was not possible to speak of Germany as a whole, he said: "Western Germany today possesses the instrument which should permit her to assume the direction of her own destiny." The statute would be revised all the more quickly and far-reaching in proportion to the scrupulousness with which its provisions were observed. The High Commissioners hoped that the young German democracy, having become a factor for order and peace, would be able to take its place within the future organization of Europe. The High Commissioners signed the declaration of the entry into force of the Occupation Statute and the texts of six laws. One deals with the Press, wireless, information, and entertainment. It has been stiffened since the outcry about the re-emergence of the Nazi newspapers.

UNDER THE SKIN OF SPORT



PEACE BREAKS OUT

Rugby on its best behaviour after week of turmoil
PAGE 37

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION

Schumacher pays heavy penalty for jumping the gun
PAGE 29



WELSH ASSEMBLY

Glamorgan wrap-up county championship
PAGE 31



TIMES SPORT

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 22 1997

CHELSEA OUTGUNNED IN CAPITAL SHOOT-OUT



Winterburn, the Arsenal defender, is airborne after unleashing a fierce shot to score the goal that decided the London derby against Chelsea at Stamford Bridge yesterday. Photograph: John Babb

Winterburn strikes decisive blow

By OLIVER HOYT
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THE phoney war that has marked the start of the FA Carling Premiership season, by keeping the strongest sides apart until the last days of this Indian summer, ended in the violent, juddering, blazing of the big guns at Stamford Bridge yesterday afternoon, when Arsenal scored a dramatic and controversial late win over Chelsea that took them to second place in the table.

Arsenal's victory, in a tie that has superseded their clashes with Tottenham Hotspur as the most important of the London derbies, came courtesy of a stunning finish from Nigel Winterburn. The Arsenal left back lashed home his first goal for 18 months two minutes from the end of a frantic match to secure a 3-2 victory.

As Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, punched the air in delight, the Chelsea team, which had been reduced to ten men by the sending off of Frank Leboeuf for a

second bookable offence in the 68th minute, protested to Dermot Gallagher, the referee, that Wise had been prevented from challenging Winterburn by an off-the-ball trip by Petit.

A feud had been simmering between Petit and Wise since midway through the half, when the Chelsea midfielder felled the Frenchman with an innocent high kick. Wenger said afterwards, though, that Wise should have been sent off for a two-footed lunge on Vieira, so it was clear that he felt a form of justice had been achieved. To emphasise the physical nature of the match, Duberry, the Chelsea defender, was taken to hospital after the match with a suspected broken ankle.

It was always that sort of match — a trial of strength as much as skill, a game that was decided as much in the bad-tempered battles in midfield as it was in attack, where Bergkamp showed Arsenal just what they had missed when he refused to travel to Salonika for

FC	2	3	FC
CHELSEA		ARSENAL	
Poyet 40 Zola 60		Bergkamp 45, 59 Winterburn 89	
Attendance: 33,012			

their UEFA Cup game last Tuesday because of his fear of flying.

His return gave Arsenal the hint of supremacy that was the key to their victory, one that Wenger said was a big psychological boost, as it was his side's first game against a perceived championship rival.

"It was important for us to do well after our bad game in Greece," Wenger said. "We were too cautious in the first half. We did not take enough risks. But we had the experienced players there to calm us down when the play went through its violent moments and not to try to rush things when Chelsea were down to ten men. In the end, it came right for us and I am delighted. The sending-off was

a turning point, because I did not feel we could lose after that.

"Psychologically, this was a very important result because we had not played against a team in the top five before and, for both us and Chelsea, it was important to know how we would play in that sort of situation."

A slow start, illuminated only by a sublime Bergkamp turn from a Dixon throw-in, a fierce Poyet shot that was blocked by Boulton and a mazy Bergkamp run that left four players in his wake, changed tempo five minutes before half-time when Wise hit a deep cross from the right to Duberry at the back post. He headed the ball across the face of the goal to Poyet, who

bundled it past Dixon on the line.

Three minutes later, Arsenal nearly equalised when De Goey had to dive smartly to keep out a Bergkamp header. On the stroke of half-time, though, the Holland striker went one better. Vieira chipped a ball to Wright, who guided it into Bergkamp's path with a beautifully weighted header and he slid it wide of De Goey.

Ruud Gullit, the Chelsea player-manager, brought on Mark Hughes for Gianluca Vialli in the 57th minute, and his arrival seemed to act as a call to arms for both teams. Arsenal acted first.

After Petit's shot was blocked and ricocheted into the air, Leboeuf and Duberry made a dreadful hash of trying to clear it and, when it fell to Bergkamp, he drove it into the bottom right-hand corner.

Before a minute had elapsed, Leboeuf chipped a ball through to Hughes on the right side of the Arsenal area. He curled a tantalising cross into the box,

where Zola stole in on the back post to prod home the equaliser.

Leboeuf was sent off nine minutes later and for a long time it seemed as though that would stifle the game, as Gullit pulled Zola and Hughes back behind the ball and left only Flo in attack. They held on until the 88th minute, when Winterburn advanced unimpeded and fired a dipping, left-foot drive over De Goey and into the net.

Wenger used his post-match press conference to laud Bergkamp as a "world-class player who is at his peak". Gullit to defend Wise good-naturedly against the allegation that he should have been sent off. "He went in two-footed," someone insisted. "I thought you were allowed to do that in England."

Gullit smiled.

CHELSEA (3-5-2): E de Goey — P Hughes, F Leboeuf, M Duberry — D Petrescu (sub: M Nicholas, 45min), R de Matos (sub: T Flo, 61), G Poyet, D Wise, G Le Saux — G Vialli (sub: M Hughes, 57), G Zola.

ARSENAL (4-4-2): D Seaman — L Dixon, S Boulton, A Adams, N Winterburn — R Partridge (sub: L Bos Monto, 67), P Winge, E Petit, M Overmars (sub: G Girmanidi, 69) — D Bergkamp, I Wright.

Referee: D Gallagher



Wenger celebrates victory

"Look boss, if we fail to score again today, we'll play naked next week. Right lads?"

CRISPER HOLSTEN PILS AN IDEAL WAY TO CHARGE YOUR FLY.



GOLF: SCOT WARMS UP FOR RYDER CUP WITH COURSE RECORD AS BRITISH MASTERS GOES TO LAST PUTT

Turner keeps his nerve to hold off Montgomerie

BY JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

SHORT putts are not much fun at the best of times and Greg Turner faced one of five feet on the 72nd green at the Forest of Arden yesterday afternoon. If he holed it, he would win the One 2 One British Masters by one stroke. If he missed, he would be in a play-off with Colin Montgomerie, the dominant golfer in Europe, who had just produced one of his Sunday special rounds, a magnificent, record-setting 63, to close from eight strokes behind Turner to only one.

Turner had led by two strokes after 54 holes and was still ahead by the same margin after 70. He wobbled slightly by dropping one stroke on the 71st, and then hit his tee-shot into a bunker on the last. Now he needed all his nerve and, to his credit, he was not found wanting. He bravely sank the putt and thus claimed victory. A 70 gave Turner a total of 275.13 under par. Montgomerie was 12 under and Mark Roe nine under.

So to Turner — the brother of Glenn, the former New Zealand cricket captain — go the victor's spoils, a matter of a cool £125,000, but to Montgomerie go the plaudits. This course, which had looked so desolate and drab in the rain earlier in the week, was bathed in sunshine as he made his way round it yesterday. Montgomerie looked

nothing less than the golden boy of European golf.

At times on Sundays this year, his play has been wonderful, and so it was yesterday. The 63 counts as a course record because of an alteration made to the short 5th. When combined with his 67 on Saturday, it took him from two over par after 36 holes to 12 under after 72, and he got through to the last two days only by the skin of his teeth, saving par from beneath a tree on the 9th.

That is the best round I have played this year," Montgomerie said, placing it higher than the closing 62 — also a course record — which brought him a seven-shot victory in the Irish Open in July. "Seve [Severiano Ballesteros, the Europe Ryder Cup captain] will be delighted. I am sure, and the Americans would have been thrilled if I had missed the cut."

Montgomerie had seven birdies in his last round, two coming in the final five holes when he needed them most. He eagled the 17th for good measure. No wonder he was pleased with himself. It was the sort of golf that one expects from him, yet it was also the sort of golf that makes one want him to go to the United States and try his luck among the stronger fields there. That is the way he can progress even more. If he wins the order of merit for a record fifth

time in succession, as he is now favourite to do, then the urge to see him compete regularly in the US will be even greater.

Montgomerie's Ryder Cup team-mates suffered mixed fortunes. Thomas Bjorn had his worst round of the week, a 73, to finish equal fourth, but Ignacio Garrido, Ian Woosnam and Darren Clarke had their lowest or their equal lowest. José María Olazábal was downcast after finishing one under par for 72 holes.

Ten years ago, Olazábal made his debut in the Ryder Cup at Muirfield Village and, in partnership with Ballesteros, won three of their four foursomes and four-ball matches. In the gallery then was his mother, watching anxiously, blobs of pride evident in her cheeks. She will be at Valderrama again this week, but Olazábal is pessimistic that she will witness such golf again.

He was asked what was wrong. "Everything," was the answer. "My mother had better be on the fairway." Olazábal said. "That is the safest place. My game is not there. It is reflected in the score, just one sub-par round in the past four. Everything is wrong, from tee to green."

It is just the opposite for Montgomerie, who goes to Valderrama in much the same vein of form as he left for Washington and the United States Open after winning at Slaley Hall.

"I have been 14 under par at the weekend. That is good," Montgomerie said. "When I start to relax and not worry about where the clubhouse is at the top of the backswing, then I play well."

For Montgomerie, it is a case of "bring on the Americans". He cannot wait for the start of what will be his fourth Ryder Cup. "The American team is not as strong as we think," he said. "A lot of their players are beatable and have been beaten before. We are the 12 that Seve could have picked himself. We have every chance."



Turner sinks a testing putt on the final green to win at the Forest of Arden yesterday

Davies ends monopoly

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN COLOGNE

LAURA DAVIES, the world No 3, won the Hennessy Cup at the Golf and Land-Club Köln, near here yesterday, breaking a streak of six successive Swedish victories on German soil and adding a new — and much-coveted — title to her collection.

"I'm absolutely delighted," Davies, who as a rookie had finished second in the first Hennessy in 1985, said. "Gilles Hennessy has been such a loyal sponsor and does so much for us that it's great to win his tournament. It was hard work out there and I never really felt comfortable, but I was very rarely in trouble off the tee and that's the key around a course like this."

At the halfway stage, Davies forecast that five under par would win. She was well out as fast greens and lush rough

took their toll and the course was undoubtedly the winner on points.

On a sunny day with barely a breath of breeze, the course continued to pose problems and Davies managed to repel all challengers with a final round of 74, two over par, for a level-par total of 288. That left her one shot ahead of Anne-Marie Knight, of Australia, who came home in 33, three under par, to equal her best result in Europe.

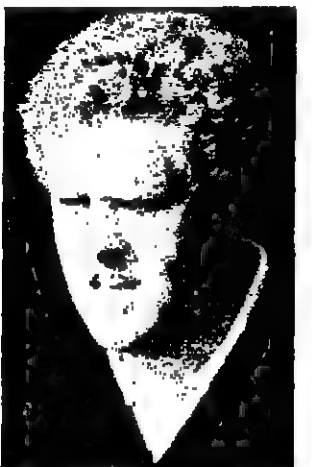
The distinguished trio of Helen Alfredsson, the defending champion, Alison Nicholas, the US Open champion, and Lisa Hackney, the Midlander who is on the verge of being rookie of the year in the United States, shared third place on 290, a shot behind Knight.

Nicholas had moved to two under par with birdies at the

first two holes and took the lead, briefly, when Davies dropped shots at the 1st and 3rd to drop back to level par. However, Nicholas lost momentum with bogeys at the 4th and 5th and Davies regained the lead when she hit a wedge to four feet at the 5th.

It was tight and tense until the finish but when Davies, who had five bogeys and three birdies, holed a testing three-footer for her par at the 17th, she had the luxury of knowing that a par five at the last would suffice.

Davies was not quite at her best but she owed her victory to an impressive 68 on Saturday that included eagle threes at the 2nd and the 11th. She chipped in from 60 feet at the former and hit a spectacular four-iron — it travelled 243 yards and finished five feet from the hole — at the latter.



Montgomerie: record

FINAL SCORES

Great Britain and Ireland unless stated
275: G Turner (N2) 68, 71, 66, 70, 278: C Montgomerie (N3) 74, 67, 63, 275: M Roe (63, 74, 70, 70, 269: P Russell (64, 75, 71, 70, 1: Bom (Dan) 69, 72, 66, 73, 261: P Price (71, 68, 72, 70, 2: S Torrance (69, 66, 71, 262: P Spelard (Swi) 68, 74, 71, 69: Cabrera (Arg) 71, 75, 67, 69: R Alenby (Aust) 71, 72, 69, 68: 268: D Clarke (71, 72, 70, 70, 2: O Malley (Aust) 69, 69, 72, 73: M Jordan (Ire) 70, 72, 67, 74, 264: K Eriksson (Swe) 70, 73, 68, 59: R Gosson (AUS) 72, 68, 70, 70: P Crozier (Swe) 70, 74, 70: S Struver (Den) 68, 73, 71, 71: M James (71, 71, 67, 70, 262: R Bokal (71, 72, 70, 72: J. Garry (71) 74, 70, 69, 72: R Clayton (68, 72, 69, 72, 266: P Heald (Swe) 67, 75, 75, 68: 2: Torrance (US) 71, 72, 72: 2: Edmond (Swe) 69, 75, 70, 72: S Ames (71) 71, 72, 71, 72: G On (70, 71, 72, 73: T Goggin (Ire) 73, 72, 68, 72: D Clifford (71, 70, 68, 75: 267: P Crozier (Swe) 72, 74, 71: J M Crozier (68) 72, 73, 70, 72: S Smith (AUS) 70, 72, 72: B Davis (69, 73, 72, 73: Lulu (Spa) 72, 70, 70

RUGBY LEAGUE

Hull on course to complete double

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

HULL, the first division champions, are on course to complete a double after beating Whitehaven 45-18 in their Premiership Trophy semi-final. They now face Huddersfield at Old Trafford next Sunday.

The match yesterday was full of drama, with Graeme Hogg, of Hull, and David Fafalola, of Whitehaven, sent off after a scuffle in the 34th minute. Four minutes later, Stan Martin, the Whitehaven coach, was dismissed after an argument with the referee.

By then, Hull had put themselves into a commanding position, by storming into a 14-0 lead inside the first 11 minutes. Tries by Steven Holmes and Brad Hepi, plus three Mark Hewitt goals, gave them the perfect start.

Having established a 24-point lead at the interval, Mark Johnson, the Hull wing, kept up his impressive recent record with his eleventh touchdown in eight matches. Johnson ran 50 yards down the

touchline, beating three defenders on the way.

Whitehaven kept battling bravely and struck back with tries by Aaron Lester and Lee Kiddi. Hull, though, finished off with three more tries.

Bradford Bulls, the Super League champions, began their rebuilding plans for next season yesterday by transferring two of their championship-winning players. Paul Loughlin, the former Great Britain centre, and the Scotland wing, Gary Christie, were put up for sale as Matthew Elliott, the Bradford coach, stepped up the search for new blood.

"We couldn't agree on a new deal with Paul Loughlin and Gary Christie," Elliott said. "We haven't put a fee on them but we are in negotiations with a couple of clubs."

Bradford have been linked with Shaun Edwards, the London Broncos scrum half, Alan Hunte, of St Helens, and Paul Sculthorpe, the Warrington forward.

HOCKEY: CONTROVERSIAL DEFEAT DENTS HOME HOPES IN JUNIOR WORLD CUP

England need win after protest fails

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN

ENGLAND, second in pool B, need a victory against Argentina today to improve their chances in the Junior World Cup tournament at Milton Keynes. Argentina are fifth, on two points, but are improving with every game.

A 1-0 defeat by Germany on Saturday was the first setback for England, who unsuccessfully lodged a protest that a suspended German player had illegally entered the field. The wing half, Andreas Lante, had been sent off in the 54th minute for a dangerous tackle.

The tournament director accepted the German argument that they did not commit a deliberate offence but had mistaken the action of the umpire, who in summoning the stretcher bearers to remove an injured player had used the same signals for the recall of a suspended player.

Jon Royce, the England coach, said that he would not have complained if the Germans had been leading 2-0, but as the margin was only 1-0

and England were well in the game he thought his protest was justified.

The winning goal was scored in the eighteenth minute after a breakaway from a short corner. A centre from the left was pushed into goal by the outside right, Draguhn, with Ebsworth having no chance to save.

After that, England had as much chance of equalising as the Germans had of increasing their lead. In the first half, Penn and Wicken lost control in good positions to score. Germany missed twice in the second half and held out against mounting pressure towards the end.

In pool A matches yesterday, a 1-0 victory by Belgium over Cuba was followed by a thrilling encounter between Australia and India, who shared four goals. Australia had the edge in the first half but were two goals down at the end of it. Australia then scored twice in the second half to draw.

Slough shrug off wayward finishing

BY CATHY HARRIS

ENGLAND'S greatest failing at the World Cup qualifying tournament in Zimbabwe last month was their abysmal finishing. The opening day in the National League season proved no different, with the top sides all citing the same problem.

Slough, the champions, and Ipswich both made winning starts, but the Slough captain, Sue Chandler, complained that her team were not clinical enough in its 4-2 victory at Highbury, while Lucy Young, her Ipswich counterpart, said: "We were pleased in our four past Doncaster but can do a lot better. There was a lapse in concentration either side of the break."

At Sutton Coldfield, the Clifton team coach, Pete Atwell, admitted that he would not have paid any money to watch a game that he said was a poor spectacle after the Bristol club came from a goal down to earn a draw with the Midlands. Atwell added: "It's disappoint-

ing because we created sufficient chances and should have scored with two or three clear first-half opportunities."

Even the newcomers, Olton, who scored more goals than any other team last season, struggled with their shooting, squandering 13 penalty corners against Trojans. Sam Strange and Franca Gasparini twice shot Trojans ahead with Kerry Moore and Kristen Holmes. Olton's new international from the United States, levelling the scores.

Despite the widespread profligacy, the England coach, Maggie Souyave, will have been heartened by the performances of the Slough strikers, Mandy Nicholls and Jane Smith, who worked selflessly. Tina Cullen, another England player who has failed to translate her outstanding club form to international level, showed why she is the league's all-time leading marksman with two brilliant efforts for Highbury to reduce the final deficit.

SPORT IN BRIEF

United States reach Davis Cup final

THE United States will play Sweden in the final of the Davis Cup tennis tournament in November. Pete Sampras's victory over Patrick Rafter gave the United States an insurmountable 3-1 lead in their semi-final tie against Australia in Washington yesterday, while Sweden beat Italy 4-1 in their best-of-five series in Norrköping.

Sampras, the world No 1, used his overpowering service to subdue the US Open champion 6-7, 6-1, 6-1, 6-4 in two hours and twenty minutes. Sampras, who has said that he will play in the final in Sweden, has won eight Davis Cup singles matches in a row. His last defeat came when an ankle injury forced him to retire during his match against Stefan Edberg, of Sweden, in the 1994 semi-finals.

Sweden advanced to their second successive final when Jonas Bjorkman beat Renzo Furlan 4-6, 6-4, 6-0, 6-4. Thomas Enqvist then beat Omar Camporese 6-3, 6-7, 6-3 in the last rubber, which was shortened to three sets.

Plato philosophical

MOTOR RACING: Renault rounded off a highly successful season in the Auto Trader RAC Touring Car Championship with successive victories at Silverstone yesterday. The Williams-built Lagoons of Alain Menu, the newly-crowned champion, and Jason Plato, his rookie team-mate, both scored wins, but there was no love lost between the two drivers. Plato began the day with an outside chance of finishing second in the championship, but Menu passed him to win the first race, ensuring that Frank Biela, in an Audi, would take second place overall.

Plato held off a determined Menu for his second win of the year, to finish one point behind Biela. "To miss second by a point is disappointing, but we all know why it happened," Plato said. An unrepentant Menu said: "I've always said that I didn't care who was second."

Zimbabwe in control

CRICKET: New Zealand were in trouble at the close of play on the fourth day of the first Test in Harare. Zimbabwe declared their second innings on 311 for nine, setting a target of 403. Then Paul Strang and Adam Huckle took a wicket apiece as New Zealand reached 64 for two, still 338 runs behind, when had light stopped play. Craig Spearman was caught behind by Andy Flower off Strang. Then, in the next over, Matt Horne tried to leave a ball from Huckle that came in to him and caught a glove on its way to Flower. Earlier, Grant Flower had become the first Zimbabwean to score a century in each innings, following his 104 with a 151. Scoreboard, page 41

Baddeley appointed

BADMINTON: Steve Baddeley became one of the youngest chief executives in British sport and the spearhead of a mini-revolution when he was yesterday appointed as the head of the Badminton Association of England. Baddeley, 36, the former European and Commonwealth champion, has been given almost £1 million of National Lottery money to help to make England one of the leading badminton nations again. "It's a 1,000 per cent increase in what we had available to us. It's phenomenal," Baddeley said.

Thomson proves master

BOWLS: Andy Thomson, the world indoor singles champion in 1994 and 1995, looked a good bet to regain the title after winning the International Indoor Masters in Soham yesterday, dropping only one set on his way to victory. After defeating Greg Harlow, of Cambridgeshire, 7-3, 7-4, 7-2, Thomson revealed he had been working hard on his indoor game since he lost in the semi-finals of the English outdoor singles at Worthing last month.

Zulle increases lead

CYCLING: Pavel Tonkov, of Russia, clinched his second stage win in three days in the Tour of Spain yesterday although the overall leader, Alex Zülle, still looked sure of victory. The Swiss increased his lead to 2min 46sec after the fifteenth stage as a rainy day on the 1,120 metre-high Enol Pass in the Covadonga national park washed away any fleeting hopes that his rivals might have had.

Peberdy is on a roll

GYMNASTICS: The British champion, Katherine Peberdy, became the world tumbling champion when she scored 9.98 out of ten in the world sports acrobatics championship at Manchester yesterday. Emily Crocker and Neil Griffith won the silver medal for mixed pairs (29.70) and gold for the tempo routine (19.82). Great Britain won seven medals and finished fourth in the team event.

Roberts does enough

FELL RUNNING: Mark Roberts claimed his first English title after finishing seventh in the 13-mile (4,000m) Three Shires Race in Cumbria. The race was won by his Borrowdale team-mate, Gavin Bland, who scored his third win in as many weeks. Mari Todd clinched her first women's championship by winning for the third time in the six-race series.

Fulford secures title

CROQUET: Robert Fulford yesterday overcame Simon Mulliner 3-1 to win the European championship in an all-English final. Fulford had defeated Paolo DiPietro, of Italy, and Matthew Burrow, 17, from Jersey, to reach the final. The title-holder, Simon Williams, of Ireland, beaten by Mulliner in a semi-final, lost to Burrow in the third place play-off.

THE DEEP STUFF! #*/

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MOTOR RACING: SCHUMACHER PAYS FOR COSTLY ERROR AS CHAMPIONSHIP LEAD IS CUT TO ONE POINT

Villeneuve enjoys flag of convenience

FROM MICHAEL CALVIN
IN ZELTWEG

IT WAS a marginal misjudgment, an understandable mistake with far-reaching consequences. Michael Schumacher is likely to rue the momentary lapse that allowed Jacques Villeneuve to win the Austrian Grand Prix yesterday and reduce the German's world championship lead to a solitary point.

Schumacher failed to notice a yellow flag, waved to warn him of an accident at the Remus Kurve on the A-1 Ring, and overtook Heinz-Harald Frentzen. He was immediately ordered into the pits by the three race stewards, to serve a ten-second stoppage penalty that relegated him from third to ninth place.

He poured his anger and frustration into a stunning drive over the last third of the race, forcing his way past Damon Hill on the penultimate lap to claim sixth place, and a point. Villeneuve, though, who cruised to a comfortable win, nearly three seconds ahead of the runner-up, David Coulthard, knew he had seized the initiative in the duel for the title.

His Williams-Renault is better suited to the three remaining circuits — Nürburgring, Suzuka and Jerez — than Schumacher's Ferrari. "This was a very, very important win," Villeneuve said. "It was a crucial race. We have a better overall package than Michael and I am very confident for the rest of the season."

His willingness to tempt fate gives the misleading impression of a man under little pressure. The strain of chasing Schumacher, the outstanding driver of his generation, is insidious, if well disguised. Revealingly, Villeneuve was on his intercom throughout the race, demanding information on Schumacher's progress from his pit crew.

Villeneuve had started

poorly from pole position, suffering excessive wheelspin because he let the clutch out too quickly. Mika Hakkinen surged past — only to have his engine expire at the final bend of the first lap — and was followed by Jarno Trulli, in his Prost-Mugen-Honda, and the Stewart-Ford of Rubens Barrichello.

The race settled into a familiar pattern until the 38th lap, when Jean Alesi's Benetton was catapulted into the air by the Ferrari of Eddie Irvine. He had taken the inside line, but lost control when he hit Irvine's right rear wheel. When he returned to earth, he ploughed through the gravel trap, leaving a thin mist of dust that had not cleared when Schumacher came around on the next lap.

He was pressurising Frentzen, who was being frustrated by Gerhard Berger's resistance to the humiliation of being lapped in his home grand prix, and did not see a marshal on the left-hand side of the track, waving the flag.

Schumacher was furious with himself. The incident had uncanny echoes of the controversy at the 1994 British Grand Prix, when he claimed that he failed to see a black flag ordering his retirement from the race. One of the stewards yesterday, Peter Sothe, a lawyer, was in charge that fateful afternoon, which led to Schumacher being disqualified.

His response to the self-imposed setback signalled his awareness of its significance. He argued, later, for more marshalls to be employed in such circumstances, but knew he had only himself to blame. "The penalty made me angry," he said. "I had to take risks. I had to go for it."

The 200,000-strong crowd, a vast swathe of Ferrari red that clashed with the rich green of the pine-clad hills, were entranced by his aggression and audacity. He harried Bar-



Hill, kept out of the points by Michael Schumacher, centre, chats with him and his brother, Ralf, right, after the race

chello into a mistake, which sent the Brazilian's car careering across the gravel trap at the Jochen Rindt Curve, and then set off in pursuit of Hill.

Hill's brakes were worn. His TWR Arrows Yamaha lacked acceleration, but Schumacher was in such inspired mood that he would have beaten him in a tractor. "I saw Michael behind me and

thought he was far enough back for me to hold on," Hill said. "I was just driving my nuts off, but he slipped through."

It was another indication of just how far Hill has to climb to reclaim former glories. His compensation for another difficult afternoon was the reliability of the Jordan Peugeot drivers, Giancarlo Fisichella and Ralf Schumacher, who

finished fourth and fifth respectively.

Schumacher's moral victory maintained his championship advantage and was a powerful statement of intent. However, logic suggests that the title is now Villeneuve's to lose. Helped by Frentzen's third consecutive third place, Williams have also regained the lead over Ferrari in the constructors' championship.

"I think I could have finished second without the penalty," Schumacher said. In a tone of grim resignation. "Obviously, I was concentrating on my fight with Berger and Frentzen, but the flags should be more visible. At least I managed to pick up a point." Now that a truce has been called in the phoney war of Formula One's silly season, the real fight begins.

DETAILS

RESULT: 1. J. Villeneuve (Can. Williams-Renault) 71 laps, 1hr 27min 55.960sec; 2. D. Coulthard (GB, McLaren-Mercedes) at 2.900sec; 3. H-H. Frentzen (Ger. Williams-Renault) 3.692; 4. G. Fisichella (It. Jordan-Peugeot) 12.127; 5. R. Schumacher (Ger. Jordan-Peugeot) 31.809; 6. M. Schumacher (Ger. Ferrari) 33.410; 7. D. Hill (GB, Arrows-Yamaha) 37.207; 8. J. Herbert (GB, Sauber-Peterson) 1min 05.453sec; 9. G. Berger (Austria, Benetton-Renault) at 1 lap; 10. U. Katajama (Japan, Minardi-Ford) 12; 11. J. Trulli (It. Prost-Mugen-Honda) 13; 12. J. Verstappen (Hol. Tyrrell-Ford) both at 2 laps; 13. P. Dini (It. Arrows-Yamaha) lap 67; 14. R. Barrichello (Br. Stewart-Ford) 64; 15. J. Trulli (It. Prost-Mugen-Honda) 57; 16. M. Salo (Fin. Tyrrell-Ford) 48; 17. E. Irvine (GB, Ferrari) 30; 18. J. Alesi (Fr. Benetton-Renault) 27; 19. M. Hakkinen (Fin. McLaren-Mercedes) 1; 20. J. Herbert (GB, Sauber-Peterson) 1; 21. J. Trulli (It. Prost-Mugen-Honda) 1; 22. J. Verstappen (Hol. Tyrrell-Ford) 1; 23. J. 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Fitting finale as Lancashire pair cling on

By PAT GIBSON

BRISTOL (final day of four): Gloucestershire (pts) drew with Lancashire (5)

IF ANYONE at the County Ground yesterday did not know why Gloucestershire are still waiting for their first county championship since the days of W.C. Grace, they got the answer in the final, frustrating moments of the season. Gloucestershire simply could not finish off Lancashire, just as they have been unable to finish off so many other sides this summer.

They had set Lancashire a victory target of 288 in what turned out to be 72 overs and, despite a high-quality 78 from John Crawley and substantial contributions from Neil Fairbrother and Ian Austin, had every chance of winning when they reduced the visiting team to 232 for seven with 11 overs remaining.

What happened next demonstrated precisely why they want Courtney Walsh back as their overseas player next season. Instead of Shaun Young, the Australian all-rounder, Young was left to patrol the boundary as though Gloucestershire had already written him off, while the two spinners, Ball and Davis, tried to prise out the tail.

They were not quite up to it. They did pick up a wicket apiece, but the last pair of Chapple and Keedy held out for more than two overs with nine fielders circled round the bat.

Gloucestershire, who were up with the leaders until they lost their previous three games, have to settle for seventh place and £8,000 in prize-money. It was still a more praiseworthy effort than that of Lancashire, who, let it be noted, finished tenth, which would have consigned them to the second division had a two-tiered county championship been introduced on the basis of the table this season.

The final day also offered a fair summary of Lancashire's campaign. They seemed to be

favourites when Gloucestershire resumed only 174 runs ahead with three wickets left, but they lost the initiative to Mark Alleyne, the Gloucestershire captain, before the dew was off the grass.

Alleyne struck Keedy for four and six in the first over to pass 1,000 runs in a season for the fifth time and dominated an eighth-wicket stand of 119 in 32 overs before his partner, Davis, was caught behind off Chadford for 39. Alleyne was unbeaten on 82, plundered off 107 balls with three sixes and nine fours, when he declared at 228 for eight.

It was a sporting enough declaration on a flat wicket, but the Gloucestershire tails were up from the first over after lunch when Mike Smith gave their supporters the wicket they had been waiting for. They are still grumbling about the way Michael Atherton neglected to give Smith the new ball in his solitary Test at Headingley, so they were enjoying when he employed the left-armers' classical inverting delivery to bowl the England captain through the gate.

Wood went next, caught at slip in Davis's second over, but Crawley and Fairbrother put on 82 in 19 overs for the third wicket.

Then the game swung dramatically in the space of three overs. Crawley, having batted beautifully for his 78 off 99 balls with 15 fours, was leg-before trying to pull Lewis over mid-wicket, and Harvey and Watkinson were run out.

Fairbrother, Austin and Hegg kept up the chase but when Hegg was brilliantly caught by Ball, arguably the best slip-fielder in the country, high to his right off Smith, Lancashire settled for frustrating Gloucestershire.

The umpires, Barrie Meyer and Jack Bond, drew stumps for the last time after their emotional farewell in a match involving their old counties. They would probably have settled for the draw, too.



Saeed Anwar, the Pakistan opening batsman, looks back at his stumps after being dismissed by Abey Kuruvilla, of India, in the fourth Sahara Cup match in Toronto on Saturday. India won by seven wickets. Scoreboard, page 41

Barnett ends stormy season in style

By MICHAEL HENDERSON

DERBY (final day of four): Derbyshire (2pts) beat Yorkshire (3) by nine wickets

THIS has been a miserable and at times harrowing season for Derbyshire but it ended with a terrific rainbow. The Peakes beat Yorkshire, who were championship contenders only a week ago, out of sight and, allied to earlier victories over the Australians and Lancashire, they can say that the summer has not been entirely without merit.

It was only their nineteenth championship victory against Yorkshire, who have won 99 of the matches between the clubs. The win cannot disguise the team's overall lamentable performance this year or wish away the interminable wars that belong more properly in a Sicilian village. But it does mean they can take their

season's leave on a note of relative harmony.

Derbyshire had three heroes in this match, two old sweats and a young man who has yet to find his feet. Kim Barnett, the central figure of the drama this season, made an unbeaten 210 and shared in the highest stand in the club's history, 417, with Tim Twests, whose 189 was his maiden century. Phillip DeFreitas, the outgoing captain, who has complained about not being given a fair crack of the whip, gave them ten wickets as a parting gift.

When Yorkshire were bowled out for 267 yesterday — the same score they had made on the first day — Derbyshire had to make 62 to win and they got there easily. It was appropriate that Barnett and Twests were together at the end, for it was their remarkable stand that did most to win the game.

What a way Barnett chose to bring down the curtain! As somebody said: This summer he has got rid of the captain, the coach, the chairman and the cricket chairman. Now he has ended it by making his 52nd hundred for Derbyshire, strengthening his club record, and passing 1,000 runs in a season for the fourth time, another club record. He was on the field for every ball of this game, not bad for a 37-year-old.

The 417 stand for the second wicket was not only the best in Derbyshire's 127-year history, it was also the highest made at the ground and the highest against Yorkshire.

DeFreitas and Harris broke the back of the innings by sharing four of the first five wickets. There was some peculiar batting before lunch, as Yorkshire embarked on a policy of hit-or-bust, repre-

sented most clearly by Lehmann's 45 from 31 balls.

There were not many hits, though Parker, Silverwood and Fisher, who looks an uncommonly assured No.10, made sure that Derbyshire at least had to bat again, however briefly. DeFreitas took six wickets in the innings, and returned match figures of ten for 172. At a difficult time for the club he has not let them down.

It is not true to say that Barnett dispensed with the quarrelsome foursome, though his is still a powerful voice within the club. He did, after all, captain the side for 13 years. Derbyshire's handling of sensitive matters was so malodorous that casualties were unavoidable, and Dominic Cork's promotion to captain has ensured that everybody remains on storm alert.

So, here's to 1998. "Dogger, German Bight, Finisterre..."

Sussex are denied consolation at the last

By JACK BAILEY

HOVE (final day of four): Sussex (8pts) drew with Nottinghamshire (9)

IT COULD have happened in Tom Brown's Schooldays: the underdogs, after a dismal season, rising to the challenge of scoring 550 to win at better than four an over. But this is the real world. Sussex, already assured of the championship wooden spoon in the light of Derbyshire's victory over Yorkshire, were denied one last triumph by a Nottinghamshire team that, for all their good points, scarcely deserved to win.

Yesterday, their fielding was not only suspect but distinctly vulnerable under pressure. Keith Newell who, with Toby Peirce, kept Sussex on the fringes of the hunt, was dropped twice — on eight and 57. Peirce made a worthy 90, but should have been caught and bowled by Franks when 19. Numerous run-out chances were missed as Sussex kept going until only three wickets remained with 78 still needed from nine overs.

The early-morning exchanges provoked little incident. Johnson took toll of friendly spin bowling for his second half-century in the match. Afzaal tried to do the same, but this is not his style and Carpenter's slow left-arm deflected and bowled him. By the time Johnson declared, Notts had added 68 to their overnight 147 and Sussex were set a reasonable, but in their case unlikely 356 to win off 82 overs.

There were moments that promised Sussex victory. After his escape, Peirce moved with great effect across the line of Richard Bates's off spin. Newell survived his first chance and settled down with Peirce to take Sussex to tea at 199 for two off 51 overs. The game very much on. Any sense of well-being among Sussex supporters was soon replaced by doubt, however. Newell hit the ball back at Afzaal, there was a deflection on to the stumps and Peirce, backing up, was run out. Newell rode his luck, but found nobody who could both stay with him and score freely enough.

Boon takes a swing at county pitches

By IVO TENNANT

LEICESTER (final day of four): Leicestershire (21pts) beat Durham (4) by 17 runs

THE sense of optimism that pervaded Durham when a much-respected Australian arrived to be their captain at the start of the season was not entirely misplaced. Yesterday, they had a brave stab at winning a championship match away from the North East for the first time for two years, narrowly failing to reach their target of 328. David Boon himself made 93 and John Morris 84.

Boon, judging each ball with familiar meticulous care, faced 173 balls and struck 17 fours. Morris, in his spasmodically brilliant way, added 149 with him in 29 overs. Millns finished with six wickets.

Durham ended the season second from bottom in the championship, an improvement on last year. Boon knew what he was taking on, but realised he had been optimistic in aiming to finish mid-table. He told the player-of-the-year dinner last week how keen he was to return to Durham next season. "I have not found playing all the time to be as hard as I expected," he said. "I have been frustrated because I have seen a lot of talent here. We have to become more consistent and work on acquiring a greater sense of belief."

He has not been wholly satisfied with his own form, having not quite reached 1,000 runs. The pitches, he feels, have not been good enough. "England will not make any progress if we go on playing on the kind of surface, green in the middle and bare at both ends, that we encountered at Scarborough," Boon said.

"I do not agree with having two divisions for the championship. If the bottom sides cannot play the ones at the top, they will not learn and will stay where they are. If a player is in the second division, his chances of Test cricket will diminish. I did not hear too much winging about the system when England were beating Australia ten years ago. What is needed is an improvement in pitches and in the bowling on those pitches."

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Britannic Assurance county championship

Derbyshire v Yorkshire

DERBY (final day of four): Derbyshire (2pts) beat Yorkshire (3) by nine wickets

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Gloucestershire v Lancashire

BRISTOL (final day of four): Gloucestershire (pts) drew with Lancashire (5)

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Derbyshire v Yorkshire

DERBY (final day of four): Derbyshire (2pts) beat Yorkshire (3) by nine wickets

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Gloucestershire v Lancashire

BRISTOL (final day of four): Gloucestershire (pts) drew with Lancashire (5)

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County championship triumph rewards flair and leadership of impressive Welsh assembly

Glamorgan prove value of team ethic

By ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

TURN the clock back 18 months and the wise and worldly of cricket would have laughed derisively at the suggestion that the next two county champions were to be Leicestershire and Glamorgan. Unfashionable, unfanciable, impossible. Yet it has happened and, to widespread approval, the title won by the Welsh on Saturday was every bit as deserved as that secured at Grace Road 12 months earlier.

Sympathy for Kent, the eternal bridesmaid, is natural but, in this instance, misplaced. In four-day cricket, Glamorgan have been the team of the year, exuding flair, balance and positive thinking. They won the title in style, demolishing Somerset in little more than two days of cricket, and they won it on merit. The margin was only four points but it might have been much wider.

It seems incredible now that the first of only two defeats for Glamorgan was a humiliation. Back in June, on their own Cardiff soil, they were bowled out for 31 by Middlesex and beaten by an innings. A week later, they routed Lancashire for 51, exhibiting the spirit that was to shine through the summer. Though the weather has sometimes been cruel, they have not looked back since.

The architect of that uplifting win over Lancashire was Waqar Younis. He took seven for 25 and it was alone worth much of the £100,000 that he will take home to Pakistan for his season's work. Glamorgan did not lack ability or ambition, but perhaps it took that destructive spell to instil the



Jubilant supporters carry James from the field after he had hit the winning runs against Somerset at Taunton. Photograph: Graham Morris

subconscious self-belief. It would, however, be wrong to lay this triumph entirely at Waqar's door. He did take more wickets than anyone, but Glamorgan boast three others — Steve Watkins, Darren Thomas and Robert Croft — with upwards of 50. The lead

was shared, never more convincingly than on Saturday. After the breathtaking dash to 527 had given Glamorgan an intimidating lead of 275, most of the 3,000 at Taunton, of whom perhaps 70 per cent were Welsh, expected Waqar to apply the execution. In-

stead, devoid of rhythm as he battled tonsils, he conceded 50 runs in five overs.

Even Watkins, that marvelously loyal servant for whom all of cricket will be delighted, could not summon inspiration, and the hymn sheets in the crowd were quietly put away. Enter Thomas, the stocky, abrasive and — until this year — inconsistent youngster. Bowling fast, straight and with a control of movement that tells of a year spent with Waqar, he took five for 38 and won the match.

If this was symptomatic of the team ethic, it was also appropriate that the winning runs were scored by Steve James, who has had a phenomenal season. James, who is about to get married, will tour with England A after Christmas, but an injury in the senior side would see him dispatched to the West Indies. He would let nobody down.

The opening partnership between James and Hugh Morris has been an outstanding feature and if Morris is now to move into coaching, his 17-year career could not have had a better climax. Morris is another of the game's nice guys. The Glamorgan team is full of them, which explains the popularity of their win and the spirit behind it.

Amid the celebrations of Saturday evening, Matthew Maynard, the captain, said: "They have all been desperate for this moment. I have just guided the squad." This is an understatement, for Maynard has surprised many with his leadership. Instinctive and assertive, he has been fortunate to have a coach, in Duncan Fletcher, the Zimbabwean, whose thoughtful style provides a perfect counterpoint.

Maynard has led vibrantly with the bat, too, occasionally elevating the art to a level few can equal. Vulnerability is his charm, but his first-innings century at Taunton was sublime, an abiding memory of the season. Glamorgan have not only scored runs heavily — crucially, they gained six more batting points than Kent — but also at great pace.

The very Welshness of the team, the fact that they see themselves as playing for a country as much as a county, has been in their favour. Every member of the close-knit dressing-room can recite the years — 1948 and 1969 — when the tide previously crossed the border. To expand the list is to achieve sporting immortality in Wales.

Glamorgan used only 14 players in their 17 matches. Last year, Leicestershire fielded 13. Neither team suffered much from England calls or from injuries, but the exclusivity of the squads tells of a desire to play and of a bonded, inviolable unit. Leicestershire

found it impossible to repeat their success and the same may happen to Glamorgan. There was a sense, certainly, that this was their year, that the portents were right and the circumstances unsurpassable. They may struggle to replicate such a balance. What they have done, however, is rid themselves forever of the condescending jokes that pursued them for so many down-trodden years.

On Saturday night, the players and their vocal supporters turned Taunton into a valleys town. Doubtless, they turned the cider into something stronger, too. Perhaps they reflected on the only other trophy the county has won since 1969, the Sunday league title of 1993, and the fact that it was won at Canterbury. It was won, indeed, on the very pitch that Kent so controversially chose for this decisive championship round. It had not been used at all in the intervening four years and Kent must now be inclined to dig it up and send it to Wales.

Kent left with room for second thoughts

By SIMON WILDE

FINISHING second can do funny things to the mind. The if-onlys not only keep occurring, they also take up residence, monopolising mental space that ought to be given over to rational thinking. Before you know it, you have a hang-up on your hands.

Don Revie, manager of the great Leeds United football team of the late Sixties and early Seventies, found it hard to retain his grip as they took one runners-up spot after another. The situation became so desperate that, in an effort to break the spell, he took to wearing particular clothes and approaching stadiums from a particular side of the street. It was all to no avail.

As they woke yesterday morning, Kent's cricketers might have cast a knowing nod at the memory of the late Revie. If they had room to think about anything except the if-onlys of their second places in the Benson and Hedges Cup, the Asa Life League and the Britannia Assurance county championship, which was lost on Saturday despite a good day work at Canterbury to defeat Surrey by five wickets.

It is a remarkable record and one rarely approached in modern times... except by Kent. Five years ago, they finished second in the championship and Benson and Hedges Cup, and since winning those same events in 1978 they have been second in the four county competitions 12 times, against which can be set a solitary, rather muted triumph in the 40-overs league in 1995.

As for the championship, if only their top-order batting had functioned properly and Min Patel been fit if only they had not inexplicably lost to Durham and allowed Northamptonshire to beat them by one wicket. Above all, if only they had managed to beat Somerset last month. Instead, with Kent batting, the scores finished level. It cost them eight points. As with Doug Sanders and the putt that cost him the Open Championship, it may be a while before Kent's players can go more than ten minutes without thinking of the circumstances.

The art to finishing second, of course, is to make sure it does not happen again. Steve Marsh, the redoubtable Kent captain, claims that his side will be stronger for the experience, that they have gained the respect of many opponents and learnt to play better in difficult situations. But they still have a long way to travel. Their performance in the Benson and Hedges Cup final in July was one of the most abject by any side in a Lord's final. Mark Ealham was nearer the truth when he said that it will be at least two months before they can look back on their season with any pride.

Are Kent capable of win-

FINAL TABLE

	PW	LD	BT	PP
Glamorgan (10)	17	8	2	57
Kent (11)	17	8	5	44
Worcestershire (9)	17	7	6	35
Warwickshire (8)	17	7	2	32
Yorkshire (6)	17	5	6	34
Gloucestershire (13)	17	6	5	35
Surrey (9)	17	5	5	35
Leicestershire (11)	17	4	12	37
Lancashire (15)	17	5	6	34
Somerset (11)	17	3	11	38
Nottinghamshire (14)	17	4	10	28
Northants (16)	17	3	9	33
Derbyshire (12)	17	2	8	25
Durham (18)	17	1	6	24
Sussex (12)	17	1	6	24

(Last year's positions in brackets)
[1] Warwickshire and Kent's record in-
cludes eight points as Kent batting last in
match where scores finished level

ning anything next year? Possibly, if Headley and McCague stay fit, if they strengthen their pot-holed batting — they are trying to sign Chris Adams from Derbyshire — and if they make the right choice of overseas player between Paul Strang and Carl Hooper. If their groundstaff do not become overly cautious as a result of the lenient penalty, suspended for one year, that was rightly imposed for the pitch produced for the Surrey game. And if the scars of the past permit.

One of the worst things about coming second is dealing with the contingencies that were made for coming first. There was champagne in the home dressing-room at the St Lawrence ground on Saturday, just in case Glamorgan blew up at Taunton, so David Fulton, who scored a five maiden championship century to set up Kent's victory, felt obliged to spray it around the balcony, though by then there was no chance of Somerset causing an upset. Kent must be getting used to drinking fizz with heavy hearts.

SCOREBOARD

SURREY: First Innings 124 (J B D Thompson 4 for 33)

Second Innings	
D J Bealme to Phillips	130
M A Jucker c and b Ealham	30
J D Ricketts c Ward b Ealham	170
A J Stewart c Marsh b Fleming	170
A D Brown c Marsh b Phillips	4
B C Hockley c Marsh b Thompson	2
C C Lewis b Marsh b Thompson	2
I D K Bailey c Phillips b Thompson	15
E E Burge c Marsh b Thompson	15
R M Armit not out	1
Extras (b 1, lb 1)	11
Total	371

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-59, 2-89, 3-288, 4-292, 5-316, 6-327, 7-328, 8-386, 9-388.

BOWLING: Ealham 18-0-0-16, Thompson 29-1-11-25, Ealham 18-2-58-2, Phillips 14-2-1-59-1, Phillips 18-2-58-2, Ward 2-0-11-0.

Surrey: First Innings 220 (M A Ealham 82, S C Hockley 4 for 54)

Second Innings	
D P Fulton c and b Boucher	110
E T Smith c Salisbury b Benjamin	18
R Ward c and b Salisbury	18
A P Wells c and b Salisbury	15
A J Ward c and b Salisbury	15
M A Ealham c and b Salisbury	18
M V Fleming not out	47
Extras (b 6, lb 2)	28
Total	276

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-38, 2-63, 3-116, 4-201, 5-210.

BOWLING: Lewis 13-2-0-78-0, Benjamin 13-2-55-1, Hockley 8-1-35-0, Boucher 13-1-58-2, Phillips 14-2-36-1, Ealham 11-1-31-0.

Umpires: T E Jessy and A G T Westhead

Middlesex call off chase after taking early blows

By BARNEY SPENDER

CHELMSFORD (final day of four): Essex (5pts) drew with Middlesex (10)

THE Essex faithful love their cricket and yesterday, clinging to the remnants of the summer sunshine and their last fix of action for seven months, they turned up in numbers in the hope, if not the expectation, of a gripping run-chase on the last afternoon.

Unfortunately, it was not to be. Set 267 to win from what turned out to be a possible 51 overs, Middlesex slipped to 21 for three after seven overs and, when Mike Gatting was bowled by Paul Grayson just before tea, they opted to shut shop in the final session and lost out on their chance of a top-three finish.

Disappointing as it may have been, it was no great surprise that the game petered out after both sides had bumbled their way through the first three days with no obvious signs of purpose or intent. It was a laid-back, cucumber-sandwich kind of a match, the sandwich threatened with extinction by the two-division proposal.

It did, however, have its moments, not least of which was a 12-minute appearance at was a Mark Ramprath, the crease by Mark Ramprath, who arrived from his kash, who arrived from his wife's bedside, where she was expecting the birth of their



Hussain: second hundred

first child, to launch the Middlesex chase. Awkward deliveries were the order of the day, however, and he soon popped up a catch to short leg and headed off again.

Darren Robinson and Nasser Hussain spent much of the morning stretching their second-wicket partnership to 213 before Hussain top-edged a pull off Hewitt and was caught by Brown, the wicket-keeper. Hussain's 104 was only his second hundred for the county this year, but bearing in mind that it was only his seventeenth championship innings and that he also made two hundreds against Australia, it has not been such a bad season for him.

Robinson also made it into three figures for the second time and played with a solidity which suggests that next season he will cement his position as Graham Gooch's successor at the top of the order. His 134 came off 280 balls and included 16 fours and a six.

Stuart Law, the one man you would have bet on to finish the season with a bang, made just a single before edging a catch to Brown, but he has had another fine summer in all competitions and the members will doubtless raise a glass at the news that he will be back again next year.

Law has accepted a one-year contract and will sign it before returning to Australia this week. For Middlesex it has been a season of development and two of their younger lights shone in this match. David Nash, their 19-year-old wicket-keeper-batsman, made his maiden century on Saturday and followed it up with a wicket off his first ball in first-class cricket.

Mark Ilott was the victim, caught in the covers by Owais Shah, Middlesex's other young gun. Shah later underlined his burgeoning talent with a well-crafted 54 not out before the captains concluded the season with seven overs remaining.

Hampshire fail to last the distance

By JOHN THICKESSE

SOUTHAMPTON (final day of four): Worcestershire (24pts) beat Hampshire (3) by nine wickets.

ONCE Matthew Hayden dragged an intended straight-drive to mid-on in the first half-hour, there was never a moment when Hampshire looked like stopping Worcestershire from beating them and not many, sad to say, when it seemed to concern them whether they did or not. In conditions only a little less favourable for batting than when Graeme Hick and Tom Moody shared their unbroken partnership of 438 on the first two days, Hampshire's lack of resolution was sickening.

Their may not sound, or look, too bad a score, but since it was only when Aymes, at No 7, was dismissed that a batsman was out playing defensively — as opposed to making a present of his wicket through an ill-conceived or misplayed attacking stroke, or through lack of application — it can be reckoned to be at least 100 below par for the conditions.

Credit all the same to Worcestershire for taking full advantage of what Hampshire were offering. This was their fourth win in seven games, which was enough to lift them from tenth to third and pip Yorkshire, Middlesex

and Warwickshire. It was an even more one-sided game than the margin implies, since Worcestershire lost only three wickets in scoring 626 runs in the match.

Restarting yesterday at 127 for one, 99 behind after being forced to follow on, Hampshire needed Hayden and White to get through the first hour's play. How little help Moody considered the pitch would give his seam bowlers was reflected by his decision to start with the spinners, Illingworth and Hick — and so little indication did either give of being able to take an early wicket that after ten overs, costing 36 runs, he turned them round; despite the fact that from their new ends the breeze was blowing from the wrong quarter for their drift.

When Hayden succumbed to the first ball of Hick's new spell, however, it proved to be an inspired decision. From 163 for one Hampshire subsided to 189 for four. White, becoming Hick's second victim when he missed a sweep, and Whitaker his third, bowled through a loose defensive stroke. With Illingworth settling into a 32-over spell that was to bring him three for 29, Hampshire slid to defeat without honour. The middle order's lack of fight was shown up when the last two wickets added 54.

Warwickshire keep clean sheet as runs come easy

By RICHARD HOBBSON

EDGBASTON (final day of four): Warwickshire (7pts) drew with Northamptonshire (9)

AN eighth-wicket stand of 120 between Ashley Giles and Dougie Brown ensured that Warwickshire preserved their unbeaten championship record at Edgbaston this season. The home side, however, missed out on a third-place finish, which would have taken their prize-money for the summer beyond £100,000.

This was the last match to finish yesterday and the prevailing mood was of optimism. If these two counties are successful in their search for overseas players, then the same game next year will pit Brian Lara against Shane Warne. The contest was shaped in the first hour when Warwickshire passed the follow-on target of 222. Cheap runs for both sides followed and Fordham, who is taking up a position with the England and Wales Cricket Board, ended his career by scoring 85 of the easiest runs imaginable in 30 minutes against a bowling attack of Osler and Knight.

Without Allan Donald, Warwickshire had prepared a pitch to help the slow bowlers. Jason Brown and Michael Davies clearly anticipated taking responsibility for the bulk



Taylor: all-purpose bowler

of Northamptonshire's bowling, and ultimately it was a little too much for either. Yet the young spinners could not have imagined that the new-ball attack would carve so deeply into the top order when Warwickshire sought 271 to win in what turned out to be 64 overs.

A mixture of circumstances, notably the conspicuous failure of Mohammad Akram, has forced Taylor to be both stock and strike bowler these last five months. In his first spell here, he swung the ball into the right-hander and cut it away off the pitch. Knight dragged the sixth ball of the innings on to his off stump, Hemp fell leg-before and Wagh faced a stern challenge

to technique and temperament before the left-arm seamer took his sweeper.

Smith, meanwhile, had fallen to Curran, the acting captain, and when Wagh edged an off-swinging Penberthy to Fordham at slip, Warwickshire were 54 for four, seemingly out of contention. Yet this side is more resilient than most. Osler, for example, has endured a lean time, accumulating just 310 runs in his previous 20 championship innings, but chose an appropriate time to record his second half-century of the season in the competition.

He put on 65 in 18 overs with Penney before he perished attempting to paddle away Davies against the spin. Northamptonshire could afford to retain an attacking field even when the fifth wicket pair sought to accelerate and Penney, having driven Brown over long-on, offered a simple catch to silly mid-off.

Piper was bowled middle stump by Brown in the next over, the third wicket to fall for seven runs, but Brown and Giles, striking firmly off his legs, restored order. Giles survived a chance to silly point on 22 and continued to strike the ball handsomely. Brown, too, drove forcefully off the front foot before being stumped in the final over with his side 25 runs short.

Barnes gives Newcastle fortunate victory as London clubs fail to turn superiority into points

West Ham's progress hampered by Given

THERE are those, not least in the North East, who await proof that Kenny Dalglish is a good, never mind great, manager. Four English championships are disparaged as inadmissible evidence on the spurious grounds that his Liverpool success owed everything to a lavish inheritance, his Blackburn Rovers triumph to outspending rather than outplaying the rest. It has not been a good week for the sceptics.

First, of course, came that unforgettable night of European triumph over the might of Barcelona, a victory that even Manchester United must have watched with envy. However, Dalglish's claim that he took as much pleasure from the fortunate win at Upton Park on Saturday can be taken at face value because he, of all people, knows where Newcastle's priorities lie this season and it is not abroad, despite the glory and glamour.



Barnes: mesmeric

For those who recall Blackburn's often ungainly scramble for the championship three seasons ago, this game brought back familiar, if not always stirring, memories. Pretty it was not, but then how many prizes did Rovers win for artistic merit as they scrapped and scuffled their way to the FA Carling Premiership trophy?

No, Newcastle did not deserve their victory, as even Dalglish admitted and, yes, it was more down to poor finishing on West Ham's part than dogged defending. Battered in the opening 20 minutes every bit as much as in the final 20 minutes on Wednesday night, they should not have been allowed the chance to steal the points with one mesmerising flash of John Barnes's left boot. That they were was in great part down to Shay Given, the goalkeeper, who could prove Dalglish's most significant signing since he took Alan Shearer to Ewood Park.

Signing Given from his former employer at Blackburn was one of



WEST HAM UNITED 0
NEWCASTLE UNITED 1

By Matt Dickinson

the first decisions that Dalglish made when he took over at St James' Park and he would have been happy to have spent considerably more than the £1.5 million it took to lure him through a tribunal. At that price, Given looks a steal.

In 28 league games, starting with loan spells at Swindon Town and Sunderland and including just two for Blackburn, the 21-year-old has kept a remarkable 19 clean sheets, a formidable record. His arrival in place of the erratic Shaka Hislop and Pavel Smicsek has brought reassurance to a back four still prone to errors but now, more often than not, getting away with them.

By no means as dominant a figure as David Seaman or Peter Schmeichel, Given lacks the physical presence to barge his way through a packed penalty area. His shot-saving, though, aided by a gymnast's broad-shouldered build and athleticism to match, appears second to none.

Harry Redknapp was understandably frustrated at his team's inability to turn their superiority into points. "What can you do? We came away with nothing from Old Trafford last week and now we've played well again and got beaten," the West Ham manager said. "We're all over them and suddenly they score a goal like that after 44 minutes. What had they done to be in the lead?"

However, Redknapp was lucid enough to appreciate that it was also a defeat of his team's own making. Having squandered enough chances to have won several matches, poor defending saw all three central defenders sucked into the attempt to shackle Faustino Asprilla on the edge of the penalty area.

That left Barnes in space as the Colombian rolled the ball back and the 33-year-old flashed his left foot across the ball to curl it spectacularly into the top corner. For all the talk of Newcastle's good fortune, there was nothing lucky about that. WEST HAM UNITED (4-5-1): S. Given — S. Watson, D. Peacock, P. Albert, J. Beresford — K. Gillespie, D. Butler, R. Lee, W. Barrett, J. Barnes (sub: S. Howey, 70) — F. Asprilla. Referee: S. Dunn.



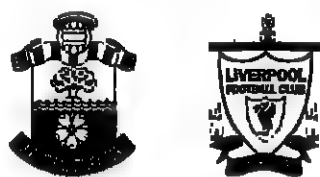
Asprilla, who fought a lone battle in attack, finds his route to goal blocked by Unsworth

Liverpool let off the hook

SOME days you should never have got out of bed. You tried to stack a shelf, the whole lot came crashing down; you tried to change a light bulb, the house went dark. Auntie Maude said: "Can you pass the gravy, dear?" and you dropped it all over that expensive new carpet. Liverpool had one of those days on Saturday.

Here was a team composed almost entirely of internationals playing with all the assurance of teenagers at a youth club disco, dressed in all the right gear, looking cool as they sip their lemonade and then edging uncomfortably out of the shadows to dance like Mr Bean. There were spells when Liverpool looked the part — elegant, confident — and then the ball would drop at the feet of a yellow-clad figure. He would stare at it for a moment, his knees would wobble and then the moment, and the ball, were gone.

Nor could anyone claim that they were exempt. While the defenders, Wright and Matteo, were worst afflicted, everybody had his turn. Take McManaman. Here was a player who scored the goal of his life on Tuesday, perhaps the goal of the season. In



SOUTHAMPTON 1
LIVERPOOL 1

By Peter Robinson

the 21st minute he robbed Le Tissier and set off again, across the halfway line. Riedle to his left, Owen to his right, two confused defenders in front of him, the goalkeeper off his line, time to spare, space to think... fell over, flat on his face. Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, excused his most creative player, but he must have been pulling his hair out.

It has to be said that Evans was not a happy bunny. He called his players careless but he could have said lazy, listless, sloppy or clumsy. "I wasn't very pleased," he said. "We defended badly, we haven't played too much, either. I suppose when you make as many mistakes as we did, we have to be happy that

we have got a point. There was some fortune in that."

Southampton could hardly believe their luck. Stranded at the foot of the FA Carling Premiership, they were almost ecstatic to have so outplayed their visitors. Had they made the most of Liverpool's largesse, they would have won 4-1 or more, but no matter, having gone behind to Riedle's expert first-half header, they fought back for a point — a good sign.

So was Le Tissier's return, albeit abbreviated by a hamstring strain, and so was the form of Kevin Davies, a big, 20-year-old striker who scored the equaliser, turning Wright every which way before beating James from 20 yards. He had chances to win the game, too, notably when Thomas dithered and allowed him to test James from close range. James passed. Not many of his team-mates could say the same.

SOUTHAMPTON (4-3-1-2): P. Jones — J. Dodd, K. Monks, C. Lundström, F. Benal — A. Hanson, K. Richardson, M. Oakley — M. Le Tissier (sub: J. Bowen, 42min, sub: A. Williams, 74) — K. Davies (sub: S. Elliott).
LIVERPOOL (3-5-2): D. James — S. T. Kvarme, M. Wright, D. Matteo — J. McManaman, M. Thomas, P. Jones, S. McManaman, S. B. Hernandez — K. Riedle (sub: P. Berger, 69), M. Owen (sub: R. Fowler, 80). Referee: P. Jones.

Guile of Ginola puts smile on Tottenham faces

FOOTBALL is a mysterious game and this match, mediocre though it was, showed as much. On the face of it, Tottenham Hotspur should have stood little chance. So many of their strikers were missing — Armstrong, Ferdinand and Iversen among them — that they had only Paul Mahorn, a 24-year-old reserve, up front.

Mahorn had scored a breathless winner in the Coca-Cola Cup against Carlisle United in midweek, but at White Hart Lane on Saturday it was the first time he had started in an FA Carling Premiership match. He has been out on loan to four different clubs in previous seasons.

Moreover, Tottenham had looked very shaky against Carlisle and shakier still four days earlier, when they lost 3-0 at Leicester City. True, Blackburn Rovers that weekend had lost what Roy Hodgson, their manager, called "a strange game", 4-3 at home to Leeds United.

He must have had a nasty sense of déjà vu because last season, when he was manager of Internazionale, however hard he worked on the training ground his defence never quite seemed to get the point. The rotten-banana syndrome persisted in a flat back four that kept on splitting and getting its offside tactics wrong. In the end, Hodgson, who turned down Blackburn last November to sign a princely new contract with Inter, walked out in despair before the end of the season.

Against Preston North End in the Coca-Cola Cup last Wednesday, Blackburn banged in six goals without reply. They came to White Hart Lane as the leading scorers in the Premiership. All this suggested that they were on a good thing against a demoralised Tottenham, although neither Ripley nor Gallacher, recently in fine form, were available to play on the Blackburn right wing.

In the event, as Hodgson admitted with typical modesty, they were lucky not to lose. Tottenham came out fighting, showing all the courage and commitment that had given them a draw away to Arsenal. On that occasion, Edinburgh's dismissal had left them with ten men for most of the game — a very different proposition, as their manager, Gerry Francis, observed, from playing ten men for the last 11 minutes, as Blackburn did when Valery, their right back, was dismissed after receiving a second yellow card.

Hodgson thought the first booking was fair, but not the second. In truth, Valery could have been sent off in the first half for a foul much worse than either of the others. All in all, Blackburn did tend to put it about. Hodgson admitted to "desperate defending from our side and when you defend desperately you get yellow cards". Quite.

Much of this desperation was caused by David Ginola, who had one of those days when his manifold, undoubted talents came to



TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR 0
BLACKBURN ROVERS 0

By Brian Glanville

gether gloriously. Those of us who have admired him since he outshone the likes of Gascoigne and Stochkov in the Toulon Under-21 tournament nine years ago could feel vindicated.

Francis was delighted. "He's always been a talented player," he said. "Great skills, great ability, but what we've tried to put into him is the fighting side. He's tackling back, he's being strong, he's going through tackles."

Whether he was casually chesting down difficult balls, belting long, cross-field passes or surging past defenders with his right-foot guile, Ginola was outstanding and, as Hodgson conceded, well supported by two other



Hodgson: work to do

lively ball players in Dominguez and Fox.

Indeed, were it not for two notable saves by Tim Flowers in a first half run by Tottenham, the home side surely would have won. After 16 minutes, from a corner by Ginola, Howells, at the second attempt, shot fiercely but Flowers turned it over the top. This the goalkeeper did again a few minutes from half-time, when Dominguez shot from the right. Almost at once, when Mabbutt, resilient as ever, flicked on another Ginola corner, Valery blocked Howells's drive on the line.

Campbell, run ragged by Heskey at Leicester, had no such trouble with Sutton. "We've still got an awful lot of work to do," Hodgson said.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-4-2): I. Walker — S. Carr, G. Mabbutt, S. Campbell, J. Robinson — R. Fox, S. Clemence, D. Howells, D. Ginola. Blackburn Rovers (4-4-2): T. Flowers — P. Valery, C. Hendry, S. Hernandez, J. Kenna — L. Schuster, T. Sherwood, G. Pritchard, J. Wilson (sub: W. Mackenay, 84) — C. Sutton, M. Darin (sub: G. Croft, 70). Referee: G. Barber.

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Amount	Annual Rates (inc. loyalty bonus)		Monthly Rates (inc. loyalty bonus which is paid annually)	
	Gross p.a.	Net p.a.	Gross p.a.	Net p.a.
£2,000+	4.95%	3.99%	3.99%	3.10%
£5,000+	5.50%	5.00%	5.37%	4.29%
£10,000+	7.50%	6.00%	6.31%	5.05%

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High Interest Deposit Account and Privilege Account

Amount	Annual Rates	
	Gross p.a.	Net p.a.
£2,000+	3.99%	3.04%
£5,000+	3.99%	3.16%
£10,000+	4.20%	3.36%
£25,000+	4.20%	3.56%
£50,000+	4.90%	3.82%
£100,000+	5.20%	4.16%

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Managing to maintain perspective



ASTON VILLA 2
DERBY COUNTY 1

By Russell Kempson

MANAGERS... don't you just love 'em? The Arthur Daley duckers and divers, the Walter Mitty ducks and dreamers, the Honest Joe workaholic toilers: football embraces them all, from the slickest manipulator to the naive novice. They shape the hopes of clubs and communities everywhere, buying confidence and selling dreams.

At the head of the breed is Brian Little of Aston Villa, and Jim Smith, of Derby County. Decent, honorable men who share a passion for the game, express it with candour and bring credit to an often maligned trade. Little, 43, only halfway up the managerial ladder; Smith, 56, approaching the final rung. Yet joined at the hip in approach, attitude and outlook.

One of their first meetings came in 1979, when Smith, the Birmingham City manager, tried to sign Little, the Aston Villa forward. A £610,000 fee was agreed but Little, already possessing a highly developed attention for detail, needed to discuss the finer points of his role at St Andrew's.

As Smith had departed for a family holiday, Little set off for Portugal. Handshakes were exchanged by a beach in the Algarve and the deal was done. It was only on Little's return home that the move turned sour. He failed the medical and, effectively, his playing career was over, prematurely.

Much water has since passed under the bridge and, at Villa Park on Saturday, Smith and Little again renewed acquaintances. Villa registered their third successive victory in the FA Carling Premiership, perhaps fortunately, as Derby need a 1-0 lead squandered and a temporary, costly loss of concentration in the second half. Nobody ranted or raved, though:



Yorke attempts to double his tally with a spectacular strike against Derby County at Villa Park on Saturday

neither victor nor vanquished peered through rose-tinted spectacles and offered banal excuses or ridiculous predictions. Sensible, considered opinions were passed in calm, measured tones. It was a glimpse of kindred spirits, at ease in the spotlight.

"I don't know whether we're out of our bad patch," Little said, referring to the four consecutive defeats that blighted Villa's start to the season. "I don't think we've really turned the corner, we've still got some catching up to do."

Smith contemplated his side's weaknesses. "We've got to pass better," he said. "We've got to take the pressure off in midfield and up front. Although Villa never looked like scoring, the law of averages says that something could

happen. We've got to sort it out and, if that means having to sign new players, so be it."

Little, grey of hair and suit, is the more reserved of the pair, almost Majoresque in his demeanour. Were the world to end in a nuclear holocaust, he would greet it with: "What was that bang?" Smith, bald and occasionally brash, lights a cigar and talks quietly through the growing haze with insight and humour. "Poom? Yeah, he made some good saves," he said of his Estonia goalkeeper, "but he gets enough practice."

For three quarters of a gentle encounter, Derby clung on to Balano's early goal, scooped in at the second attempt after Ehiogu's misdirected

header and Bosnich's unconvincing challenge. Villa eased their mounting fears, in the space of three minutes, when Yorke hooked in Collymore's nod-down and Joachim stroked in Nelson's cross.

It was almost much ado about nothing, really, in a week-in, week-out world of hype and hysteria. At least Smith and Little could keep it all in perspective. Two managers, good managers, doing a good job.

ASTON VILLA (3-5-2): M. Bosnich — U. Ehiogu, S. Shotton (sub: R. Barnes, 60min), G. Southgate — F. Nelson, M. Dwyer, I. Taylor, S. Curle (sub: J. Johnson, 88), A. Wright — S. Collymore (sub: S. Maitland, 89), D. Yorke.
DERBY COUNTY (3-5-2): M. Poom — C. Dally, G. Rowett, J. Laurson — S. Eranio, L. Carlsby, J. Hunt (sub: A. Aspinwall, 61), P. Trollope, C. Powell — D. Saunders (sub: D. Burton, 78), F. Balano (sub: P. Warchoud, 79). Referee: J. Winter.

FOOTBALL: BEAGRIE'S DISMISSAL ALLOWS CHARLTON SMOOTH PASSAGE TO VICTORY AT THE VALLEY

Mendonca punishes unruly Bradford

Charlton Athletic 4
Bradford City 1

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

BRADFORD City's early climb to the top of the Nationwide League has proved one of the more endearing stories of the season so far. After all, it was only four months ago that they had to win their last two matches, and did, to preserve their first-division status.

Yesterday, against Charlton Athletic at The Valley, Bradford undid much of their good work and mutilated any romantic image that they might have built up during their successful struggle for survival. A pathetic display of petulance in the second half, culminating in Beagrie's dismissal in the 55th minute, left a taste as sour as it had been sweet back in May.

At least Chris Kamara, the Bradford manager, conceded as much when he later analysed the hectic proceedings. "It was stupid, we became very indisciplined," he said. "Once Peter had been sent off, the game was over."

With Charlton winning 3-1, and not a hint of trouble, the game took a nasty turn after half-time as petty squabbles degenerated into a series of physical confrontations. In a six-minute spell, four players were booked — three from Bradford — and Beagrie was ordered off for a late challenge on Robinson. He had been cautioned only moments earlier.

"Peter had been our best player in the first half, but you can't do that just after you've been booked," Kamara said. "He claims he didn't touch Robinson but he shouldn't have gone in like that. It was silly."

Indeed, it was game over. From a position of possibly retrieving the deficit, and perhaps securing the victory that would have returned them to the top, Bradford were reduced to scrambling around to



Beagrie, the Bradford City winger, is shown the red card after committing his second bookable offence yesterday. Photograph: Allsport

avoid a rout. That only one more goal was added, from Mendonca in the 69th minute, was more due to weak finishing than defiant defence.

Yet Charlton's triumph was hugely merited. They had long assumed control before Beagrie's departure and their rise to sixth place is no accident. Wins against Manchester City, Norwich City and now Bradford, from their previous

four fixtures, have confirmed their wellbeing.

"I don't think the sending-off should cloud our performance, even if he was one of their most influential players," Alan Curbishley, the Charlton manager, said. "We kept our composure and it was a good display overall. It's nice that we're playing so well, but it's a bit too early to get carried away yet."

Charlton took 11 minutes to make the breakthrough, when Mendonca latched on to Kinsella's flick, turned past Dreyer and drove in his sixth goal of the season. The lead lasted only three minutes, however, with Bradford equalising when Edinho, the Brazilian striker, appeared to head in Beagrie's cross. Television evidence later proved that he had used his palm.

Within 11 minutes, though, Mortimer had restored Charlton's advantage, beating three defenders before hitting a low shot past Prudhoe. With Bradford hardly having had time to draw breath, Brown made it 3-1 with a searing 30-yard drive.

After the second-half argy-bargy had subsided, Mendonca slotted in Robinson's cross for his fifth goal in two

matches in five days — to go nicely with his hat-trick in Charlton's 4-0 win away to Norwich on Wednesday.

CHARLTON ATHLETIC (4-4-2): A Peterson — S Brown, R Ralls (sub: P Chapman, 81min), S Blower, A Barnard — J Robinson, M Kinsella, N Jones (sub: K Nicholls, 81), P Mortimer — S Jones, C Mendonca.
BRADFORD CITY (4-4-2): M Prudhoe — C Edinho, E Youds, J Dwyer, W Jacobs — J Lawrence (sub: N Pepper, 46), C Ramsay (sub: A O'Brien, 59), S Murray, P Beagrie — R Baker (sub: G B Sargent, 46), Edinho. Referee: A Lester.

Head in a whirl as Hearts reach dizzy heights

By KEVIN MCCARRA

HAVING attended a football match on almost every Saturday of the season for the past three decades, it had never occurred to me that going to just one game at a time might be a rather frugal pastime. Now, however, I have to accept that possibility. It was more than just the pain-killers that left me light-headed when, after a minor accident, I was confined to bed at the weekend.

Radio coverage can make you dizzy as it hurries you into the depths of a nation's absorption with the sport. The regular accounts of the victories being assembled by each member of the Old Firm jostled with quirky, colourful and obscure information from other parts. In the circumstances, it seemed perfectly mundane that a new signing from Namibia, Elias Shivute, should be having a fine match for Motherwell.

Elsewhere, Hugh Scott, the Morton chairman, was being asked to respond to Internet allegations that the funding for ground redevelopment was in doubt. At Firs Park, David Watt, of East Stirling, was setting unanswerable questions for Montrose as he scored a hat-trick. In Inverness, it turned out to be another bad year in the Scottish Qualifying Cup for Clachnacuddin, who lost to Elgin City.

The fabric of the game turns out to be composed of all these patches of hope, despondency, anger and exultation that grip communities across the country. Emotions are particularly loud in some places and the feats of Henrik Larsson, of Celtic, and Marco Negri, of Rangers, in each scoring two goals were bound to be chronicled at length. These intriguing, overseas

signings are welcome in Scotland, but there is also a duty to honour the familiar, and effective, footballer. John Robertson was brought on as a substitute by Heart of Midlothian on Saturday and scored the winner in a 2-1 victory over Dundee United. There have been plenty of rehearsals, for he has scored 210 goals in League football.

In his constant effectiveness, Robertson, 33 next month, is a figurehead for the club, but the longevity is misleading. He may have survived, but Hearts as a whole are in the midst of furious change and those who had forgotten to pay them much attention will now have to look afresh at Tynecastle. The ground alone is impressive, with a third new stand opened on Saturday.

For the moment, Hearts also dominate another skyline since they stand at the top of the Bell's Scottish League premier division table. In addition to buying well, Jim Jefferies, the manager, has also bought young. Of the players that started the match with Dundee United, six were 24 or under.

Since his appointment in 1995, Jefferies has taken Hearts to one Tennent's Scottish Cup final and one Coca-Cola Cup final. This is the first time since 1992 that they have led the premier division.

Last week, Hearts were tempted to make a dramatic addition to the quality of the side by taking Tomas Brodin from Leeds United on a three-month loan. For Brodin, a short spell at Tynecastle might have amounted to no more than a means of recovering match fitness and, by declining to proceed, Hearts showed that they are intent on building long-term strength of their own.

Contenders fail to live up to billing

West Bromwich Albion 0
Swindon Town 0

By DAVID POWELL

EITHER side could have gone to the head of the Nationwide League first division on Saturday. Neither took its chance. Surely the match had been incorrectly labelled? A top-of-the-table encounter. Swindon Town, in second place, West Bromwich Albion third.

Never. Certainly these two did not look like teams making the early pace towards the FA Carling Premiership. One manager praised his players for their "excellent defending", above all else, and the other found nothing illuminating to say whatsoever. It was that bland, boring commitment in abundance, some flair, but precious few chances.

It was like a 100 metres race without a finish. West Bromwich started fast, Swindon slowly. For the last hour both teams, neck and neck, seemed to be treading water, no winner in sight. There were only

two saves to speak of in the entire match, when a drive by Bullock was tipped over by Miller and, in the last minute, when Digby kept out Hunt's close-range shot.

On the hour, Sneekes made an exhilarating run towards the Swindon goal and it seemed the deadlock might be broken. Swindon, though, as we know, were defending excellently and the saving tackle may have been what Steve McMahon, the visiting manager, had in mind when praising his back line.

Excellent defending, of course, is what a manager needs when five players, who might have been in, are out injured. Among the missing was Cuervo, the French midfielder, whose flair has been responsible for Swindon's rise this season. Hurry back, Cuervo, Walters, too.

WEST BROMWICH ALBION (4-4-2): A Miller — A McManis, D Burgess, P Hearn, D Smith — S Potts, J Henderson, B Sneekes, K Kilbane (sub: S Cook, 79min) — R Taylor (sub: P Pochettino, 64), A Hart.
SWINDON TOWN (5-3-2): F Digby — F Darrin, C Casper, B Brown, A McDonald, J Croxall — A Smith, D Bullock, T Goodson — S Cowie, W Allison. Referee: F Stratton.

Fry's exuberance given full rein

Peterborough United 2
Leyton Orient 0

By PAT GIBSON

BARRY FRY could not contain himself. "Top of the league," the Peterborough United manager gushed. "Ten games without defeat, more goals than anyone else in the country, the leading scorer and the best striking partnership in the land... and I still don't think we're finished yet."

Let us begin by putting one or two things in perspective. The league in question is the Nationwide League third division. And while Martin Carruthers and Jimmy Quinn can claim to be the most prolific pair of strikers with 16 goals between them, they are not quite in the same class as, say, Wright and Bergkamp or Sutton and Gallacher.

Never mind. It is still quite a start by the great wheeler-dealer, who has lost no time in bouncing back from the despair of relegation last season which dampened even his enthusiasm for a while.

The cynic might suggest that he ought to be in his

element at this level because in just about every game he seems to have bought and sold most of the players on the field in his time. It does seem, however, that he is being more selective with the money which has been made available by the new chairman, Peter Bolzot, who has previously been more associated with hockey and pizzas than football.

Take Neil Lewis, the talented full back who was off-loaded by Leicester City after spending some time as a guest of Her Majesty for assault.

Horsfield spurs Halifax

HALIFAX Town continued their merry way at the top of the Vauxhall Conference by beating Farnborough Town 2-1 at Cherrywood Road on Saturday (Walter Gammie writes). Still unbeaten, George Mulhall's team have now won three matches away from home — as many as in the whole of last season.

Mulhall's recruitment has given the defence an assured look and in Geoff Horsfield Halifax have the league's in-form striker. When he equal-

ised Chris Boothe's goal for Farnborough in the last minute of the first half, Horsfield brought his tally for the season to ten in eight Conference matches. The winner was scored in the 65th minute by Gary Brook.

Pushing Horsfield in the scoring charts is Neil Grayson, of Hereford United, whose double made it eight for the season and brought a 2-1 victory at Kettering Town — still without a win and stuck at the foot of the table.

Reading did not work out. He need not have worried. Fry was the first man on the phone and though Quinn, 37 now but still a cut above most strikers in the lower divisions, had more prestigious offers he was impressed by what he saw at Peterborough.

It looked as though he was a good judge at London Road on Saturday. Peterborough took the lead in their first attack. Lewis crossing perfectly for Castle to flash a third-minute header past Hyde, and went further ahead 18 minutes later when Carruthers flicked on Farrell's cross to Quinn, who finished with practised ease.

There might have been many more goals. Houghton thundering a shot against the crossbar, Carruthers missing a chance to score his tenth goal of the season when Quinn headed him through and then Quinn, of all people, missing a penalty.

PETERBOROUGH UNITED (4-4-2): M Taylor — C McManis, A Edwards, M Bodley, N Lewis, D Farrell, S Caserio, P Payne, S Houghton (sub: W Bulman, 81min) — M Carruthers, J Quinn (sub: C Cleverly, 88).
LEYTON ORIENT (3-5-2): P Hyde — D Smith, S Clark, M Warren — J Channing (sub: D Harrison, 69), T Richards (sub: J Joseph, 28), M Llop, A Ingham, D Naylor — S McClelland, C Gethins. Referee: C Finch.

Luton's defensive cupboard bare

Luton Town 2
Wrexham 6

By BILL EDGAR

ADORED in the early 1980s for their adventurous arrival in the top flight but hated later that decade for using an artificial pitch and banning away fans, Luton Town are these days provoking only pity. Mad defending by the Hatters at Kenilworth Road on Saturday leaves them second to bottom of the Nationwide League second division — their worst position for 30 years.

The nadir of the defeat by Wrexham came after Trevor Peake, Luton's reserve-team coach, was sent on as a 58th-minute substitute in a desperate bid to strengthen a defence that was struggling to keep the score at 2-2. Peake was playing his first League game in 17 months and, predictably, his 40-year-old legs were no match for Wrexham's lively attack.

The Welsh side scored three times within 15 minutes of

Peake's arrival to leave the Luton manager, Lesmie Lawrence, bemoaning the long-term injuries that have weakened his defence.

"With that back four's total unfamiliarity with each other, I'm not going to get a clean sheet unless there's a miracle," Lawrence said. "The frightening thing is that there is little I can do about it. I've got no more money to spend, I've already got my quota of two short-term loan players and there are no players available for a long-term loan."

For the record, Wrexham took a two-goal lead through Dave Brammer and Karl Connolly but goals from Steve Davis and Phil Gray brought Luton level five minutes into the second half. Craig Skinner hit Wrexham's third from the penalty spot before the impressive Connolly completed his hat-trick.

LUFTON TOWN (4-4-2): A Deable — G McCowan, S Davis, S Gray, R Harvey (sub: T Peake, 58min) — D Marshall (sub: B Evans, 51), G Blackburn (sub: T Hodge, 46), P McLennan, D O'Neil — P Gray, S Douglas.
WREXHAM (4-4-2): A Marshall — M Mackenzie, B Jones, B Conry, P Hardy — C Skinner, W Phillips, D Brammer, G Owen — D Spink, K Connolly (sub: G Walters, 88). Referee: P Pepler.

Archery school finds the target

By JOHN GOODBODY

MENTION archery and anyone immediately thinks of Robin Hood. Barely two miles away from his famous oak, near Mansfield, in Nottinghamshire, is Wellow House, who on October 3 will be defending their British schools archery title.

However, any inspiration provided by the tradition of England's most celebrated outlaw must be subconscious for the pupils of Wellow House. When you say the name of Robin Hood there may not exactly be blank stares from the boys and girls but there are scarcely looks illustrating their familiarity with the legend.

Yet this prep school of 130 pupils, aged from 2½ to 13, enjoys an astonishing reputa-

tion in the Olympic sport. They have lost the prep schools title only once since 1976. In the British schools (under-18) championships, they have finished first four times, although they had been shooting shorter distances than their older rivals. The girls, too, have taken five national championships.

It is not as if Wellow House unduly concentrates on archery. About 20 pupils practise regularly and then usually only twice a week. It runs alongside the customary activities of football, swimming, cricket and netball.

However, as so often when you find excellence in schools' sport, there is invariably a devoted teacher or coach guiding the pupils. Nick Forbes has been a teacher since 1972 and, as he sits surrounded by the bows, arrows and all the ancient crafts and modern equipment that makes up the sport, you understand why such excellence is possible.

Dr Malcolm Tozer, the headmaster, said: "He has a charisma. Pupils do it for him. They respond to the challenges."

However, archery does offer an alternative activity to the more commonplace sports. Dr Tozer said: "There will always be less hearty children and you need to counterbalance those sports which attract hearty children. For us, ar-



chery is part of that and so is table tennis. They tend to pick up different pupils.

"Archery has a discipline as has choir singing. There is a code of etiquette and the pupils are always working through a pattern of activity, with every-one conscious of the needs of safety."

On Thursdays, when there is a choice in the games programmes, the archers will be practising outdoors or in the unusually long indoor sports hall, which can accommodate a 30-metre round.

Dr Tozer outlines the advantages of the sport. "It introduces manipulative skills. There is fine hand-eye combination and a mixture of physical and mental disciplines. Pupils are responsive to the challenges — goals get progressively harder to reach with the targets moving further away."

Forbes, who estimates he

has supervised 910,000 arrows being shot in his 25 years at the school, points to the need for a routine. "Everyone thinks they can do it. You have to get rid of the Indians and cowboys thing. I demonstrate and I hope they will imitate. They learn how to pick up the bow, how to pull, how to aim. The arrow has to be horizontal to the ground and there should be a continuous line between the bow-hand, arrow and the rear of the pulling arm."

Some pupils drop out because they lack the concentration or physical strength. In shoulder-to-shoulder competitions, such as the schools championships at Bloxham next month, there is a need to conquer nerves.

Eleanor Sanson, ten, a member of the successful team last year, said: "Sometimes at events you want to do it and sometimes you don't. But if you win, it is like Christmas. I really miss it in the holidays." Meridian Ayers, eight, contrasts archery with football. "Archery is so skillful. There is the bow and the target. It is not like football where everyone is rushing all over the place."

It is the individuality of the activity that appeals to Sarah Sunderland, 12, another member of the girls team. "I often compete in my mind against myself. I bet I am going to get a bull's eye."

Cardiff find form with a flourish

CARDIFF Devils and Nottingham Panthers, forced to settle for 2-2 draws against Bracknell Bees and Basingstoke Bison respectively in midweek, returned to winning ways on Saturday in group B of the Benson and Hedges Cup (Norman de Mesquita writes). The Panthers defeated Peterborough Pirates 11-4, with Derek Laxdal scoring three goals and Neil Morgan two. The Devils beat Basingstoke 4-2.

Two other teams to have easy wins against lower-division opposition were Bracknell, who beat Slough 7-0, and Newcastle Cobras, who out-classed Paisley Pirates 13-3. Ayr Scottish Eagles defeated Telford Tigers 12-2.

In Sheffield, the Steelers went down 9-4 to Manchester Storm. Rob Wilson, of the Steelers, and Kris Miller, of the Storm, were sent off.

The eight Superleague teams look set to reach the quarter-finals. In group A, Manchester and Newcastle have 11 points from seven games. In group B, Cardiff have 11 from six, two points ahead of Nottingham, who have a game in hand.

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Atkinson leads assault on the sensitive ear

We all remember them... those feisty mid-week nights when British football clubs dominated European competitions. Thirtysomethings will recall frittering away the evening until *Sportsnight* delivered highlights of Liverpool's Champions' Cup quarter-final match with the likes of Dinamo Moscow.

Most things have changed since then. The Heysel Stadium disaster marked Britain's passage into the European wilderness. The Champions' Cup is now the Champions' League. The likes of Dinamo Moscow are relics of the communist era and the red carpet is rolled out for every

British venture into Europe. Four of the five terrestrial channels screened live matches last week. It was harvest time for the football pundit.

However, British television coverage remains rooted in the past. David Pleat was barely passable on BBC1 (Celtic v Liverpool). Nigel Spackman anonymous on Channel 5 (Chelsea v Slovan Bratislava), while Ron Atkinson traded exclusively as hyperbole-user-in-chief and arch-executioner of the English language on ITV (Newcastle United v Barcelona).

Atkinson's park mentality is ill-suited to the increasingly sophisticated realm of European football. His early ad-

monishment of the Italian referee rebounded badly as the official handled an intense occasion with rare aplomb. Indeed, Atkinson has become a prime source of earache, his remarks compounded by Brian Moore's unashamedly biased commentary.

It was Moore who patented the art of ridiculing continental goalkeepers and their inability to catch crosses cleanly. Yet when the Newcastle goalkeeper fumbled a corner before retrieving the ball, Moore asked us to disbelieve our eyes. "That was safely held by Given," he said with misplaced assurance.

Meanwhile, back in the studio, Glenn Hoddle correct-



JULIAN MUSCAT
TV ACTION REPLAY

ly predicted that it was a good time for Newcastle to be playing a disorganised Barcelona — but only just. The Spaniards' late rally almost retrieved a three-goal deficit, which brought back the words of Alan Shearer. It would be a low-scoring game he had ventured, in the process illustrating the folly of employing

partisanship in the analyst's seat. Shearer, of all people, should be aware of the frailties of the Newcastle defence.

At least ITV allocated sufficient time to its studio guests. On BBC1 the previous night, Des Lynam, Alan Hansen and Trevor Brooking had barely introduced themselves before it was off to John Motson and

Pleat in the Celtic Park cauldron. Once again, hyperbole ruled the airwaves, the rich history of the fixture thunderously reverberating down Motson's microphone. Yet times have changed and it was Pleat who unwittingly trod on Motson's toes when he observed: "They've dubbed it as Scotland versus England but there are only five Scots in the Celtic line-up tonight."

Motson's sole stab at raising the punditry stakes descended to pantomime when the game paused for breath. "The Frenchman is keeping McKinnlay out of the Celtic side; he seems to play for Scotland but not for his club. What does that tell you?" Motson in-

quired of Pleat. The subsequent silence was deafening. Thank God, therefore, for Hansen. Here is the master-pundit prepared to dish out warranted criticism. Some absurd comparisons between players on show and the all-time greats grated with Hansen, who rounded sharply when Lynam suggested that Donnelly, of Celtic, was in the mould of Dalglish. "He's had some good opportunities and he should have done better," came Hansen's rebuke. This vignette offered all the more reason to regret the haste with which the BBC cameras departed at the final whistle.

For Chelsea v Bratislava on Channel 5, we had the conventional studio set, the conventional presenter, the conventional analyst in Paul Elliott and, alongside him, the unconventional Ally McCoist in conventional mood. Even Jonathon Pearce, the commentator, lacked his usual effervescence. Deprived of his goal-saluting prowess when the forecast failed to materialise, he seemed particularly subdued.

All in all, then, a far-from-vintage display from the plethora of analysts on show. British teams have caught up with their European rivals largely through investment in continental players. It may be time to adopt a similar approach to analysts.

'Violence is no longer rugby union's cosy little secret. The doors to the club have been flung open'

Fighting talk fails to disguise the fudge

I went to a fight on Saturday and a rugby union match broke out. Hot Hot For the sports pages last week were filled with the latest violence in rugby, violence that broke out, once again, between Welsh and French clubs in the European club competition.

The worst of it took place in Brive, home of the Heineken Cup-holders, nine days ago. But on Saturday, despite having three players injured in a post-match bar-room brawl, Brive turned up to play Bath in the same competition and narrowly lost a wonderful match.

The violence was saved for the postmatch press conference. Laurent Seigne, the Brive coach, said through an interpreter: "Today we played a real rugby union match in a good competition. Last week we played against semi-civilised..." The interpreter's voice tailed away apologetically. Seigne supplied the missing word himself and in English: "Animals."

Last week, Brive played against Pontypridd, who themselves had a good victory at the weekend in a decent match against Scottish Borders. But Brive against Pontypridd was absurdly violent and was followed by the now infamous post-match clash in which the players got stuck into each other once again in a local bar. There were also violent confrontations in the match between Pau and Llanelli.

Brive are due to play against Pontypridd in Wales next week. Seigne thinks that the match should be cancelled and awarded to Brive, or at least played on neutral ground. "It is impossible to imagine a match in Pontypridd against that kind of player," he said. He claimed that there was also trouble with the Pontypridd supporters and there is even talk of Brive bringing their own security force if they are required to play the fixture as planned.

The directors of the competition meet today to decide what sort of

SIMON BARNES



sanctions, if any, they will bring against the sinning and/or sinned-against clubs. The post-match excitement, as well as the on-pitch excesses, will be considered. It will be a very ticklish one to call. The grievances have gone very deep.

The fact is that the French are irredeemably violent and need to be slapped down at regular intervals. The fact is that the Welsh are out-of-control maniacs who should be given as hard a time as possible. The fact is that rugby union is basically an anglophone conspiracy against the French. The fact is that neither Welsh players nor French players are paid-up members of the English middle classes.

The fact is that to introduce culture clashes in sport is asking for trouble. The fact is that culture clashes in sport make for splendid matches. Bath's tactical approach on Saturday was matched by Brive's moments of searing inspiration — in international sport, the tendency to play up to your own national stereotype seems almost irresistible.

But let us go to the heart of the



matter. The only fact worth considering in this business is that rugby union is an irredeemably violent game. No ball game in the world admits so much legitimate physical contact and physical combat. To say that rugby union has an endemic problem with violence is like saying that football has an endemic problem with people kicking the ball. Violence does not break out in rugby union. Violence is the nature of the game.

There are other very violent ball games, but in rugby league and Australian Rules the violent clashes are out in the open. American football is also a very violent game, with off-the-ball clashes a legitimate part of it. The inevitable problems are kept in check by the very large number of officials and by protective clothing. Fights regularly break out (at which the camera generally cuts elsewhere), but

it is hard to give a black eye to a man in a helmet.

In rugby union, the lineout, the scrum, the ruck and the maul are essentially violent physical confrontations and, by their nature, much of what goes on is invisible to all save the participants. The rules, as with most violent ball games, are complicated. Rugby union, because of its violence and its necessarily complex rules, is a game of stopping and starting, of whistling and taking penalties.

"I told the players at the start of the season that it is essential we reduce our penalty count," Andy Robinson, the Bath coach, said, "and that is much easier now that I have retired. Heh-heh-heh. There were a couple of off-the-ball incidents today, nothing too bad. That's what's rugby union's about. It's an aggressive game. There are always times when violence spills

over and players lose their heads. Other times, you get games like this."

The game on Saturday was won and lost on the question of discipline. Bath conceded five penalties to Brive's 22. Seigne thought this was not fair. The standards of refereeing in this sport are notoriously subjective. One of the game's essential skills is to come to terms with a referee's understanding of the rules and to play accordingly. Brive failed to do this and, though they won the try-count 3-2, Callard kicked his penalties for Bath and that was set and match point.

"I want no retaliation from my players," Robinson said. His reason for this noble stance was simplicity itself: "It could cost us the game." If you want to make illegal violence unacceptable to people in professional sport, you must make illegal violence an

extremely expensive matter in sporting terms.

It has been the tradition of rugby union to gloss over violence. Boys will be boys. Even today, there are cries for rugby authorities not to "overreact" to the latest unpleasantness. The question of illegal violence in rugby union has been fudged for too long, to a degree wholly unacceptable in a professional sport. Referees are as reluctant to punish violent offences as they are eager to leap on the pedantries of technical infringement.

It begins with referees. They need an instant form of punishment for illegal violence and they need the backing of everyone else involved in the game when these are applied. The game is watched as never before. This match was live on television and radio and there was a massive contingent of newspaper people. Violence is no

longer rugby union's cosy little secret. The doors of the club have been flung open.

Illegal violence in rugby may be inevitable, but complacency is not the right response. The aim should be to minimise violence rather than to pretend it does not matter. It is the fudging of illegal violence that sticks in the craw. Fudging leads to inevitable escalation.

Rugby union, in short, needs to grow up. And do not think that because I point out these flaws I am hostile to the sport. No sporting person who watched the match on Saturday could hold such a view. It was a better and the clash of temperaments and cultures made for much of its beauty. "The real dream of rugby is to play games like today," Seigne said. "To win one day, to lose another — it is all right if we are playing at this level."

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211. They should include a daytime telephone number.

SPORTS LETTERS

Time to scrap county game

From the Headmaster of Colchester RGS

Sir, Turkey's don't vote for Christmas and of course the first-class counties, so assiduously consulted by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) management, will not vote for their own demise. However, by retaining the county championship and the professional structure which supports it, Lord MacLaurin's blueprint for English cricket ensures that the ailments which have for so long affected our cricket will continue.

There is a simple and radical solution to our cricketing problems: to transfer to England the Australian and South African models, both based on grass-roots amateur cricket.

We need to scrap the county system and professional cricket, to create six regions covering the whole of England and Wales, with each region playing the other twice a season in ten four-day matches, to include weekends. Players would be selected from weekend first division league club cricket, including current first-class and minor counties players and the multitude of talented club players who have chosen to enter a career other than cricket, would be

eligible for the regional sides and ultimately the national team. A competition for regional second XIs, run on similar lines, would provide the necessary back-up. In addition, a limited-overs championship, in which each of the regional sides would play the others once, and with semi-finals and a final for the four best teams, would attract spectators and revenue. As in Australia and South Africa, when first-class players were free, they would represent local clubs at weekends, so helping top club players to improve their game.

The so-called "seamless" progress that the blueprint supposes would take place from recreational to first-class cricket is a myth, since talented club players would still only be able to establish themselves as first-class cricketers if they became full-time professionals, so sacrificing their other careers. Under my proposals, the sole professionals, as in Australia, would be a small nucleus of players who had reached the top of the tree, a Test squad under contract to the ECB.

The system I advocate would have the benefit of producing less, as well as much more attractive, cricket of a far higher standard than now, with every inter-regional match involving an average one third of the best cricketers

World records should be beyond reproach

From Mr Andrew Dodd

Sir, As fresh evidence makes clear the scale of systemised drug taking by former communist bloc athletes, it is entirely appropriate that competitors such as Sharron Davies seek redress for being deprived of championship medals.

Of course, the problem of drug abuse in sport is not confined to a handful of eastern European swimmers. Many performances at the recent world athletics championship, for example, were far below world record marks established before drug testing became more rigorous.

There are a host of records in many sports, but especially in track and field, that have never

been remotely threatened during the 1990s. So how did they do that? Perhaps it is time to start more public debate on the validity of these performances so that future athletes can have a fair and honest set of goals against which to aim and retired competitors can feel due recognition for the results they achieved by fair means. It would also give former athletes the chance to end the suspicion which lingers over their achievements.

Yours faithfully, ANDREW DODD, Beach Farm Cottage, Wick, Somerset. andrew-dodd@hp.com

Test squad, is abandoned. Yours faithfully, S. A. C. FRANCIS, Colchester Royal Grammar School, Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex.

From Mr John Hurst and Mr Christopher Hurst

Sir, So the county chairman, scared of "failure", have rejected two divisions and once more held our game back. Yet the lesson of football is that success in a lower division means bigger gates.

If two divisions with three up and three down were adopted — two automatic promotion places with another level the subject of a play-off involving four more teams — then a minimum of six teams

Horses need protection

From Mr Victor Green

Sir, By developing the oft-quoted tenet of the late Colonel Frank Weldon that cross-country courses in championship eventing should be terrifying for the riders yet safe for the horses, Simon Barnes (September 15) accepts an objective which is not only unattainable but also undesirable.

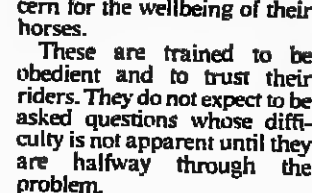
If fences frighten the most experienced and talented rid-

ers, they do so not so much because of consideration for their personal safety but primarily because of their concern for the wellbeing of their horses.

These are trained to be obedient and to trust their riders. They do not expect to be asked questions whose difficulty is not apparent until they are halfway through the problem.

The fear factor may help to swell the attendance but it has nothing to do with the art of course-building. Steeple-chasing has learnt its lessons over the years. Eventing must do the same.

This week in THE TIMES



■ **Tomorrow** John Hopkins savours the atmosphere at Valderrama as the teams arrive for Spain's first Ryder Cup match.

■ **Wednesday** Greg Rusedski serves notice of his Grand Slam Cup intentions in Munich.

■ **Thursday** Can Chelsea end Manchester United's winning run at Old Trafford?

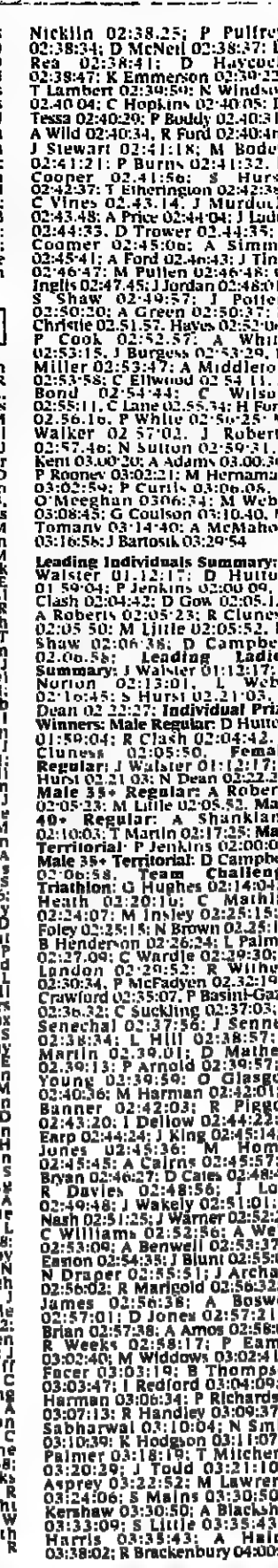
■ **Friday** Who plays with who and against whom in the opening matches of the Ryder Cup?

■ **Saturday** Football Saturday: the Premiership, match-by-match. Oliver Holt, Steve McNamara and Brian Glavin.

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INVESTORS IN PEOPLE



Hair today, here tomorrow: Nigel Lewis discovered that investing in people pays off at the Kudos hairdressing salon in Pontypridd

Where training is cut and dried

A friendly hairdressing salon is one of the smallest companies to receive the IIP award

Kudos, a hairdressing salon in Wales, was one of the smaller businesses to gain an Investors in People Award, so Nigel Lewis and his ten staff there were delighted by their success. Amanda Loose writes.

Mr Lewis believes that hairdressing is often seen as a job that people take up if they cannot do anything else. But he says: "The training systems we were trying to install for staff through IIP were something which they could look at, and see that they could be serious about furthering their careers. I thought such an

award would present a professional image to staff and customers alike, and also enable us to recruit more trainees, who were hard to find."

Mr Lewis and his team at Talbot Green in Pontypridd, Mid Glamorgan, decided to try for the award at the end of 1995, and spent some eight months completing the IIP criteria. Although he admits there was a fair amount of paperwork involved for a small company, the staff worked together as a team, which was all good practice.

"We are a growing business," he says, "and although

we had a lot of training programme, one of our main concerns was to tighten up these systems, particularly our induction and assessment procedures which were perhaps not structured correctly."

"We received much support from the advisers Dutton Jones, who came out and gave us an insight into what we needed to do, and the information we needed to collate. They said that I knew where the business was going but needed to feed this information down the system more."

One of the major changes Mr Lewis made was in ap-

pointing a training co-ordinator, equipped with a "training champion" qualification, who now oversees Kudos's budget for training and the sort of training required, and assesses the needs of individual staff. Customer care is also vital to the business, so Mr Lewis also employs a client co-ordinator with an NVQ Level 3 in customer care.

The induction process for trainees was something else Mr Lewis wanted to change. Recruits used to be shown how to complete certain tasks as and when they

came to them. Now, he explains, they have a structured programme supervised by their predecessor in the job, which means that person's memory is refreshed at the same time.

He adds: "Employees feel they are part of a salon which is moving forward, and that the award is a starting point for us. We have recently installed a computer system, which will include a database of customers as well as information about staff, so we can analyse the strengths and weaknesses and the progress of members of staff."

Your people are your most valuable asset

Edward Fennell reports on the changing attitudes of today's companies towards treating their employees as partners in enterprise

Last week the Government used the "Managing Change" conference in Westminster to launch an important report which underlined the contribution that Investors in People is making to improvements in British business. Edward Fennell writes.

Competitiveness through Partnerships with People provides a tool-kit to help companies understand the importance of the "people dimension" to business success and to build on good practice. In introducing the report, the Industry Minister, John Birt, said: "To some ears the focus on 'people issues' may sound idealistic and soft. It isn't. To those who have been through it, this is a tough agenda and one which requires very real skills of leadership."

The theme of Partnerships with People is that the most powerful resource for change, improved performance and competitive advantage is the people already in the organisation. The challenging question is how that resource can be released.

According to businessman Nigel Crouch, who worked with the DTI in developing the report, the findings of the research showed that the Investors in People Standard was now frequently being used as a practical support by successful companies. "A number of highly innovative companies that we spoke to were already recognised as Investors in People and had found the standard to be valuable," Mr Crouch said, adding that IIP UK, along with other organisations, was now helping to drive forward messages of key significance for the future of British industry.

As one experienced manager commented recently: "At first I was nervous about what the Investor in People Standard would require, but when I looked at it in detail, my apprehensions disappeared. It was really just a matter of

applied common sense."

Applied common sense it might be, but it also depends upon a positive managerial outlook. This was summed up by the Partnerships with People report as being a willingness to bring their employees into closer working relationships with senior management and to "share" with them a number of key aspects of the business.

In particular, the report highlighted the need to share goals, culture, learning, effort and information. In the absence of these, the workforce is

The company achieves the lowest cost of any European truckmaker and has become the UK's leading commercial vehicle manufacturer. As its chief executive, John Oliver, commented recently: "In the 1980s we invested an enormous amount in technology with little result. Now we emphasise employee commitment, teamwork, slim organisational structure and effective communications."

By going for these "soft" indicators, however, the company has not gone soft. As Nigel Crouch points out, the companies which successfully implement these changes all have a hard edge to them. The Investors in People Standard is rooted in ensuring that the process of personal development should be focused by the business needs of the organisation. Leyland Trucks achieved this by "building high-quality trucks through high-quality people".

In taking forward the messages of Partnerships with People, Nigel Crouch has emphasised the strength of the co-operation which now exists between the DTI, the Department for Education and Employment and Investors in People UK. Other active partners include the TUC, CBI, the Institute of Directors and the TEC National Council.

For TECs the report will provide a valuable additional weapon as they aim to switch on a growing number of organisations to achieve the standard. Collectively, the TECs have been set a target by the Government of getting 70 per cent of all organisations employing 200 or more employees, and 35 per cent of those employing 50 or more, to be recognised as Investors in People by the year 2000.

Although a couple of years ago these were viewed as being tough objectives, the current momentum suggests that they are achievable.

Copies of Partnership with People are available from DTI, Admalt, 538, London SW1W 8YT. Tel: 0870 1502 500.



Battle: tough agenda

To some, the focus on people issues may sound idealistic and soft. It isn't

not likely to be fully motivated or its potential fully realised. One of the organisations specifically singled out by the report as embodying these characteristics is Leyland Trucks. The company emerged from a management buy-out from DAF BV, and had a history of going from one crisis to another. Now, under the new managerial regime, it has achieved recognition as an Investor in People and is widely applauded for providing an excellent example of how the standard should be applied.

Teamwork gets it taped

Amanda Loose looks at a famous weaving company and its experience of the Investors In People scheme

J&J CASH, familiar to many mothers who have spent hours sewing name-tapes into their children's school uniform, won an Investors in People award earlier this year. Established in 1846, the Coventry-based company, which also makes clothing labels for companies such as Marks & Spencer and Next, employs around 150 staff, many of whom have been with the company for many years.

"We committed to the Investors in People scheme about two years ago," says John Rutter, the managing director. "We felt it offered a very good framework to ensure that we developed and trained our staff properly as our needs changed over the years."

"Technology and markets are changing all the time. The emphasis on training increases with every new challenge which arises these days, and having the right people with the right skills is more and more important."

"We are a very specialist sort of manufacturer and we have to look after our own training. We can't pull in people from the street who are experts in narrow-label weaving."

The company wanted to work out a proper training plan formalising existing programmes, to introduce new

schemes and to look at the objectives which would then be fed down the organisation. "We worked through our existing training structure with advice from the then Coventry and Warwickshire Training and Enterprise Council, and got input from training videos and other companies who had already embarked on Investors in

People," says Mr Rutter. "Much of it was formalising what we were actually doing, although in a more structured way, but there was some injection of new ideas."

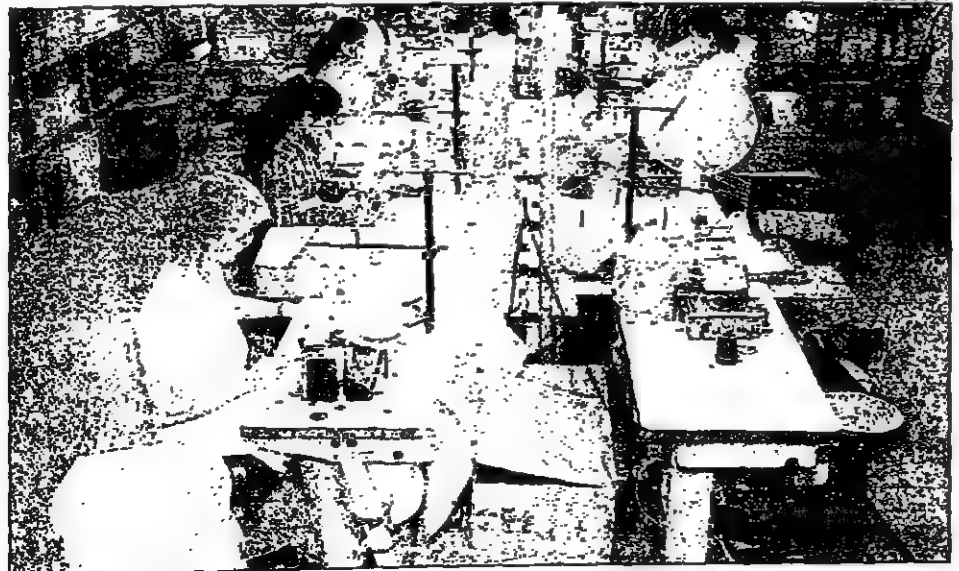
The company formalised the training and development interviews which it has with each member of staff at least once a year. Although some managers were a little ner-

vous about these formal interviews, training is available in assessment. Although it is early days to see the concrete benefits, Mr Rutter is confident of success.

"There is nothing like building on the skills of loyal employees — and retraining them is a valuable asset," he says.

"Investors in People is not a

finishing line for us, but it has set us up to start a major training programme funded by the Chamber of Commerce, which will transform the business into a team-working organisation. It will emphasise problem-solving skills and so on."



Staff at J&J Cash make the name-tapes familiar to thousands of parents

Edward Fennell on how the assessors face their task

Appraisal with a friendly face

THE assessment process is the moment of truth for organisations seeking Investors in People status. To test whether the standard has been reached, assessors crawl comprehensively over organisations, interviewing staff at all levels from the most senior executives to the mailroom staff to check the substance of their evidence.

Assessors with Investors in People UK are quick to point out, however, that it is no clinical exercise — it is a driving test. Bill Donnelly, a member of the National Assessment Centre (NAC) team which works with large, national organisations, emphasises the need for assessment to have value and benefits in its own

right for the organisation under scrutiny.

He says: "I regard the assessment as being a process of dialogue in which people have a chance to express their views to the assessor and are stimulated to think more deeply about their jobs and their skills."

Mr Donnelly, like the rest of his NAC colleagues, has enjoyed an extensive career at senior levels in companies such as Unilever and Alcan. He brings his experience to

bear on the organisations he assesses.

He says: "You need to have a feel for the structural issues facing these companies linked to political sensibilities, and a grasp of the implications for line management."

Extensive feedback is provided to the organisation both orally and in a written report. As well as discussing the extent to which the standard has been satisfied, the report will provide some

analysis of the organisation's strengths and weaknesses.

Mr Donnelly says: "If organisations are not recognised at the first assessment, they often find the assessor's report extremely valuable because it tells management things about their organisation that they otherwise might never learn."

Investors in People UK is determined that potential candidates must not be put off by too much bureaucracy. It is giving serious thought to how it might co-operate with other bodies, such as the British Standards Institute, to avoid unnecessary duplication while maintaining IIP's distinctive benefits.

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE helped Kwik-Fit reduce staff turnover by 30%. Call 0845 602 0244* and Sir Tom Farmer, Kwik-Fit's Chairman will tell you how.

RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interim: Alexon, Bemrose Corporation, Caldwell Investment, Card Clear, Chelsfield, Cussins Property, Dinkie Hest, Eurotunnel, Isotack, Innovative Technology, Peptide Therapeutics, Rex, Rugby Group, Swan Hill, Transtec, T&S Stores, VCI. Final: Beazer Group, Community Hospitals, Ivernia West, McBride, A&J Mucklow Group, Economic statistics: No UK data scheduled for release, US Treasury August budget statement, EU agriculture ministers' meeting (continues tomorrow).

TOMORROW

Interim: Arcolectric, Britton Group, BSM Group, Guinness, Hodder Headline, Metatrax Group, Proudfoot, Rutland Trust, Secure Trust Group, Simon Group, Tarmac, Vanguard Medical, Wolstenholme Pink. Final: Freepoint Leisure, Headway, Pizzapress. Economic statistics: UK final GDP (second quarter), UK balance of payments (second quarter), Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors August house price survey, Bank of England auctions 2001-02 gills, World Bank and International Monetary Fund annual meetings open in Hong Kong, Bank of England auctions 2001-02 gills.

WEDNESDAY

Interim: Aquarius, Brake Bros, Horace Clarkson, Hatpin, Ryan Hotels, Scott Holdings, Spandex, Springwood, United Carriers Group, Final: Barratt Developments, Minerva, Regent Inns, Southern Newspapers. Economic statistics: No UK data scheduled for release, World Bank and International Monetary Fund annual meetings in Hong Kong, French 1998 budget.

THURSDAY

Interim: Avis Europe, Charles Baynes, EW Fact, Heyden-Stuart, HR Owen, More Group, Oliver Group, Pemberton, Redland, Sears. Final: BZW Endowment Fund II, Premium Trust, Renishaw. Economic statistics: UK global trade (July), non-EU trade (August), UK harmonised CPI (August), Bank of England to auction 5 per cent 2001 gills.

FRIDAY

Interim: Bredson, Clinton Cards, Country Casuals, Electrophoresis. Final: Guardian Media Group, Toad. Economic statistics: British Bankers Association monthly mortgage lending (end-August).

COMPANIES

MICHAEL CLARK

Sterling leaves Guinness flat



Anthony Greener, chairman of Guinness, Bernard Arnault and George Bull, chairman of GrandMet, will have their thoughts firmly fixed on the mixing of the two drinks brands

GUINNESS: If Guinness has its way, these are likely to be the last interim figures that the drinks and leisure group will report as a separate company. Guinness is pressing ahead with its proposed £24 billion merger with Grand Metropolitan despite fierce opposition from other drinks companies and its associate, LVMH, whose chairman is Bernard Arnault.

According to NatWest Securities, the broker, the group is likely to produce a small downturn in pre-tax profits from £357 million to £353 million. Earnings per share will benefit from last year's buyback and show a 5 per cent improvement to 12.9p.

Despite evidence of an upturn in the underlying spirits business, the strong pound will have made a dent in profits. Spirits, making up almost 70 per cent of operating profits, is likely to have experienced a 2 per cent decline in both sales and profits because of an estimated £24 million dent from currency translation. After stripping out currency factors, underlying growth is of the order of 4 per cent.

The brewing side will also be affected by currencies and will show a decline of about 2 per cent. Strip out the currency and the rise is 5 per cent, with the best improvement seen in Britain and the rest of Europe.

Guinness is expected to raise the dividend by 8 per cent to 4.9p. **SEARS:** Intense speculation during the past week or two suggests that the troubled retailer is on the verge of breaking up its loss-making British Shoe Corporation division. A board meeting last week was told that the best way forward would be the disposal of the business piecemeal, rather than selling it in one lump. But the costs of such a disposal will be high and these are likely to be included in half-year figures published on Thursday. Initial estimates suggested a figure of £100 million, but the final figure may be double that.

At the annual meeting in June, the group said that it was finding the going difficult, with like-for-like sales just 2.5 per cent ahead, a slowdown from the 5.3 per cent

rise achieved in April. It seems unlikely that Sears will have made any improvement at all in the second quarter. Poor weather and a disruption to trading at Selfridges are likely to see the group plunge into the red with losses of £6.5 million forecast, compared with a profit of almost £17 million last time. Earnings will also be reversed from a surplus last time of 0.8p. The payout will be pegged at 1.05p.

REDLAND: The state of the German market and the impact

of a strong pound will dominate half-year figures on Thursday. Pre-tax profits are expected to come in at £90.5 million, up from £81.5 million. The main thrust of the improvement should come from the group's operations in Germany which last year accounted for 46 per cent of profits. Volumes in the concrete roof tile market are likely to be down, but this will be offset by slightly firmer prices.

Exchange rates will play a crucial role. Improved demand for aggregates will be seen in the

US, but any benefit will be offset by losses at Monier Tiles. Earnings are likely to be up around a third at 9.1p, but the payout will be pegged at 5.5p.

TARMAC: Interim figures to-morrow should start to reflect the £40 million of cost savings highlighted at the time of the asset swap with Wimpey. Pre-tax profits are set to come in at £34.4 million (£6.7 million), while earnings per share should grow from 0.4p to 2.5p. Brokers will no doubt seek guidance from the

company over the state of the contracting market in this country.

There will also be close attention paid to the public services division, which plunged into the red last year with losses of £4.6 million after severe cuts in public spending.

Evidence of a further improvement in North America will also be required. In the first half of last year the business contributed £11 million to group profits. There has been evidence of increased demand since then. The dividend is likely to be pegged at 3p.

BARRATT: Full-year figures from Barratt Developments, Britain's second-biggest house-builder, on Wednesday should clear up any lingering doubts about the strength of the revival in the housing market. Pre-tax profits are set to grow by around a third to £67.5 million although earnings growth will be limited to 8 per cent at 10.2p.

The group has already announced an increase in house completions of 10 per cent to 7,710 with an average selling price of £52,000. Analysts will want to know how the group has set about replenishing its landbank after the rights issue in March last year.

Meanwhile, Barratt continues to trade successfully on a regional basis with volumes climbing steadily for the fifth successive year. It now operates a total of 21 regional divisions.

The dividend is expected to grow 6 per cent to 8.75p.

BEAZER GROUP: With its exposure to the housing markets in the Midlands, North of England and Scotland, the group's results should illustrate whether other parts of the country are starting to enjoy the same housing revival as the South East.

Full-year figures today should reveal pre-tax profits up from £46.5 million to £58.5 million, with earnings per share growing by about 22 per cent to 14.4p.

There will be interest in how the company has replenished its landbank and at what cost.

The dividend should rise 7 per cent to 6.4p.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Trade figures in spotlight

The month's economic agenda has already been set by last week's strong retail sales and employment figures and there is little in this week's releases likely to alter the interest-rate outlook. The main focus will be two sets of trade data which should provide further clues to how the strong pound has affected the economy. While most analysts expect to see the trade picture worsening, the decline is unlikely to prove too alarming.

On Tuesday, the balance of payments figures should indicate a deterioration in Britain's current-account position. MMS International, the economic forecasting group, predicts the current account surplus will fall from £1.5 billion in the first quarter to just £500 million in the second quarter. The second-quarter GDP figures, released at the same time, are not expected to include any revisions to the annual growth rate of 3.4 per cent.

The trade figures have held up surprisingly well in recent months and MMS predicts the whole-month deficit for July will fall from £950 million to £240 million when the data is released on Thursday. But the August non-EU deficit is expected to widen from £65 million to £450 million. In the US, the main focus will be the durable goods data on Thursday. MMS forecasts a fall-off in orders that began in July to continue, with orders showing a decline of 0.5 per cent in August. Weak figures are likely to confirm that the Federal Reserve will not raise rates at its meeting later this month.

West German consumer prices figures are expected to show inflation stabilising in September at 2 per cent, taking some of the pressure off the Bundesbank for a swift rate rise. In France, the focus will be on the budget, which will be discussed by the Cabinet this week. Preliminary signs are that the measures should be sufficient to help France to meet the necessary EMU targets.

ALASDAIR MURRAY

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: Buy Wembley, Mirror Group, Isotack, F&I, Abbot Mead Vickers, Garton, Sell Servo. The Sunday Telegraph: Buy Ultra Electronics Holdings, Bebock International, Headlam, Internet Technology, Tilbury Douglas, Burford, Hold M1 Holdings, Sell La Senza, The Observer: Buy Kingsfisher, Wassaill, Sell Limestone, Independent On Sunday: Buy Ultraframe, Hold Christian Salvesen, Shire Pharmaceuticals, The Mail On Sunday: Buy BG, Northern Rock, Countryside Properties.

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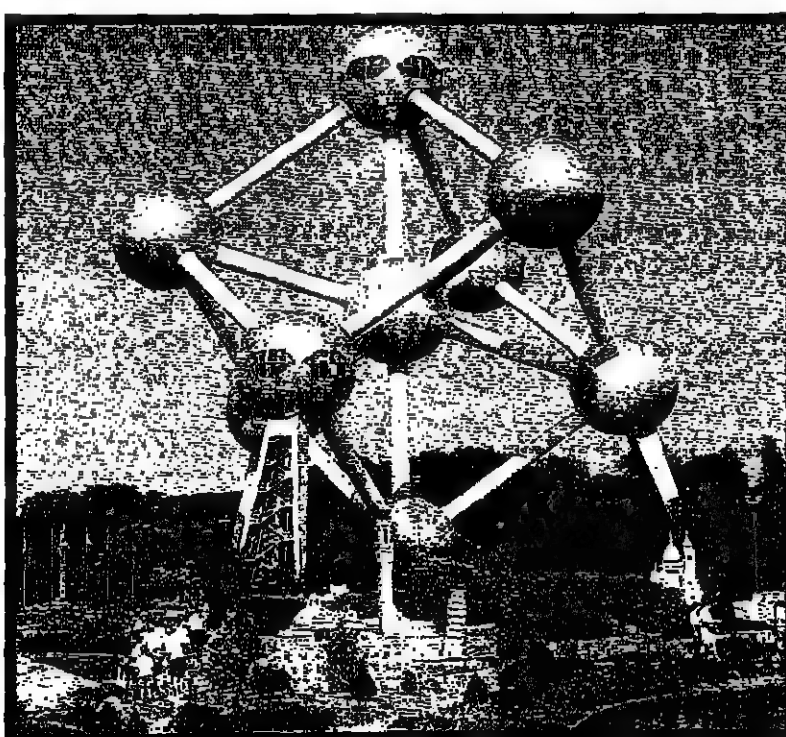
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Leeds/Bradford	£50	£100	£80	£100	£100	£110	£110
Nice*	£50	£150	£150	£150	£160	£160	£160
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Clever positioning pays off for IMF

In spite of calls for the fund to be scrapped, it is extending its sphere of influence. Janet Bush reports from Hong Kong

New recruits to the International Monetary Fund arrive to an inspirational pep talk from Michel Camdessus, the IMF's managing director. Some have described the evangelical tone as M. Camdessus outlines their mission, sending them out into the world as high priests of liberal economics.

The proselytising has been extremely effective. There is not a delegation attending the IMF's annual meeting in Hong Kong that does not talk the language of the free market.

It is a mark of how thoroughly the IMF has spread the gospel that Milton Friedman last week called for the fund to be abolished, its job done. But the fund has no intention of heeding his call. If M. Camdessus fulfils his current, considerable ambitions, there will not be an aspect of economic, social or political life in the developing — and even the developed — world that will be untouched by his institution.

One of the projects dearest to the fund's leadership is an effort to entrench the free market model by persuading countries to liberalise their capital accounts — the flow of investment and loans into and out

of a country. It has already succeeded in ridding most of the world of restrictions on trade in goods, but it now wants movements of capital to be free too.

The fund is working on an amendment to its Articles of Association which it hopes will be ready in draft form for its spring meeting in Washington. It currently only offers guidance on freeing capital accounts, but this latest step would give it formal jurisdiction.

The suspicion among developing country delegates is that the fund means to make capital account liberalisation a condition of future lending. For many, this is a frightening prospect, particularly at a time when sensitivities are running high because of the collapse of confidence and catastrophic outflows of investment money from East Asia.

But nobody dares to voice outright opposition to the fund. Instead, Commonwealth Finance Ministers and the Group of 24, which represents developing coun-

tries, are pleading for capital account liberalisation to be phased in gently and include provision to re-impose controls in times of crisis.

The IMF is likely to prove deaf to such concerns. Stanley Fischer, first deputy managing director at the IMF, last week emphatically rejected slowing down the liberalisation bandwagon. He said: "No country can afford to cut itself off from the international capital markets. The increasing importance of international capital flows is a fact, which needs to be better reflected in the laws and agreements that help bring order to the international economy."

Alongside the IMF's continuing efforts to promote free markets is what M. Camdessus calls the "second generation" of reforms which suggests a staggering degree of intervention in the way

developing countries are run. In the past, the fund invariably made a series of macroeconomic measures a condition of its lending — current account liberalisation, reduction in government deficits, removing price controls and privatising public companies.

Now it is making loans conditional on a whole host of microeconomic reforms, including changes to financial systems. It is even laying down the law on what governments can spend their money on, reducing spending on weapons and soldiers — euphemistically known as "unproductive spending" — and retargeting it on education, health and other social areas.

But the most spectacular new element of the fund's creeping interventionism is its incursion into politics. It wants reform of civil services, labour markets,

trade and agriculture. It is demanding "good governance" and transparency. And it has launched a battle against corruption. James Wolfensohn, President of the World Bank, acknowledged last week that there is a very fine line between cleaning up corruption and intervening in politics.

He defended the bank's refusal to address civil rights abuses in China on the grounds that the Bank does not get involved in politics, but he threw his full weight behind the IMF's drive against rottenness in government.

An example of the IMF as political enforcer came in July this year when it suspended a \$200 million loan package to Kenya on the grounds that the Government had failed to combat corruption. The

fallout was considerable. The shilling fell, aid flows from other donors fell and inflation rose as import prices increased.

Angela Wood, of the Bretton Woods Project, which monitors the role of the IMF and World Bank, said: "The benefits of good governance are not in question, but the IMF's competence and suitability as an institution to enforce appropriate conditionality is."

There are grave concerns about the unprecedented expansion of IMF influence, not least from the World Bank. Its expertise and experience in microeconomics is fast being made redundant.

The root of the fund's ability to empire-build is its clever positioning of itself as gatekeeper to all types of finance — with the apparently enthusiastic support of countries like Britain.

Developing countries simply do not have access to the money that they need for economic progress without the say-so of the IMF.

Debt relief is one example of the stranglehold. No country is even

eligible even to be considered unless it is in an IMF adjustment programme. Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, may be keen to relieve the debt burden of the world's poorest countries, but he has still willingly ceded control of the initiative to the IMF.

Much more important is the IMF's influence on the international capital markets. As national aid budgets are scaled back, the emphasis is moving decisively towards private capital as a tool for development. And private capital has learnt to look for an IMF seal of approval.

Argentina recently applied for a loan from the IMF, but not because it needed the money. Roque Fernandez, Argentina's Economy Minister, said that he would not be drawing down the loan because he had adequate access to private capital. He still wanted the loan — and swallowed IMF conditions on good governance — in order to win the fund's seal of approval.

So, despite having plenty of money and excellent macroeconomic indicators, Argentina still felt that it had to do the IMF's bidding.

Roger Bootle returns next week

Insurers threaten to scrap cover for millennium bug

By MARIANNE CURPHEY, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH insurers are threatening to refuse to protect businesses against the losses and damage they suffer because of the inability of their computers to deal with the year 2000.

The insurers have said that any business that neglects to upgrade its computer systems before the end of 1999 risks losing its insurance cover against a loss stemming from computer failure. This potentially involves not just cover against the interruption to business caused by loss of data such as customer records, but also insurance against fire and theft. If computerised security

systems failed to work because policyholders had neglected to deal with their millennium problem, insurers may refuse to pay subsequent claims.

Similarly the ban could also hit individual homeowners with computerised burglar alarms who suffer a break-in if the alarm does not sound because of a computer problem.

The cost of dealing with the millennium problem — which arises because most computers use only two digits to identify dates — has been estimated at billions of pounds.

The Association of British Insurers says its members are

not prepared to accept risk caused by negligence on the part of individuals or corporations. The ABI has been working with the Department of Trade and Industry's Taskforce 2000 and corporate risk managers in order to highlight the problem.

Malcolm Talling, a spokesman for the ABI, said: "The warning we are giving applies to everyone, from large and small offices down to people who work from home. Insurers are not prepared to pick up the bill if businesses do not take steps to reduce their risk. Businesses need to upgrade their computer systems now, since they will not be covered if the risk could be seen but they did nothing about it."

The move follows similar action by US insurers. The issue is much wider than losses caused by faults in computer records. In theory, if a business had not upgraded computerised alarms or water sprinkler systems and these failed on December 31 or January 1 when a burglary or fire took place, insurance cover might be withdrawn.

The Association of Insurance Risk Managers in Industry and Commerce said it was pleased that the ABI had "given guidance" on such an important matter. The DIT and ABI are to launch an awareness campaign next month via trade bodies and small business associations.



Nick Turner of Mercury Asset Management, left, with Richard Thompson of New World Payphones, bought by Mercury from Philpotts Ventures in a £56 million deal. New World has £12 million of revenues from phones in hotels, airports and hospitals

Surge in borrowing predicted

By ALASDAIR MURRAY, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

RETAILERS are set to enjoy a bumper Christmas after a sharp rise in consumer borrowing confidence.

The Hamilton Direct Bank consumer confidence survey, to be published this week, forecasts that total unsecured borrowing, such as personal loans, will double during the last four months of the year.

The survey, which also finds

that the 1 per cent hike in interest rates has not dented confidence, is likely to heighten pressure for further rate rises after strong economic data in the past few weeks.

A separate survey published at the weekend found the fall in unemployment is resulting in a serious skills shortage, raising fears that wage inflation could accelerate.

The Hamilton Bank survey found consumer borrowing confidence has risen by two percentage points since the election to its highest since the series began last year. The proportion of households reporting no outstanding debt has fallen from 23 per cent to 16 per cent while the average outstanding debt has risen 10 per cent to £2,300.

Women OAPs more likely to live in poverty

By CAROLINE MERRELL

A LARGE number of women face impoverishment in retirement, according to a survey from the TUC. They are poor because of their working patterns and because of the national insurance system.

The TUC found that women pensioners were on average £780 a year worse off than their male counterparts. Of all pensioners in the poorest 20 per cent of the population, 50 per cent are women. Single female pensioners are likely to be the poorest of all.

Women over 60 have a gross income of £138 a week before tax and housing. After these deductions, women have only £69.90 on which to live.

This week, the TUC is attempting to raise awareness of the plight of female pensioners with a freephone helpline. It will offer free and impartial advice to women for five days on such issues as pension rights and part-time working, divorce and maternity leave.

John Monks, General Secretary of the TUC, said: "Women historically have missed out on pensions and this is due in part to patterns of employment as well as discrimination in occupational schemes."

The survey also found that only one woman in four is a member of an occupational scheme, and more than three million people do not receive the full state pension. The poorest female pensioners were those in Wales — they earned only £118 a week. The richest women pensioners were those in the Greater

London area, who had an income of about £181 a week.

Women tend not to qualify for full state pension benefits, because they have not paid national insurance contributions. To pay contributions, workers must earn more than the lower earnings limit of £62 a week. Two million women earn less than this.

IPPR calls for Scottish water co-ops

CO-OPERATIVES should take over the running of Scotland's water industry from the present regional quangos, a think-tank will argue today (Christine Buckley writes).

Gerald Holtham, director of the Institute for Public Policy Research, will tell a debate on the future for Scottish water that mutualisation is the best option.

He will say: "It is unusual for a single solution to be better for consumers, better for companies and better for the Government. But in the case of Scottish water there is such a solution — mutualisation."

Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, is reviewing Scotland's water industry. Labour's election manifesto pledged to return it to local democratic control.

Gas users face delay in changing supplier

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

GAS CUSTOMERS signing up to independent companies in Scotland and the North East may have to wait weeks before their accounts are switched from British Gas.

Rivals to British Gas fear that constraints placed on the switching procedure by Transco, the pipeline network, will mean that customers who have signed to change in July may not be able to get gas from their new supplier until January.

The companies say this will make nonsense of the regulator's decision to impose a November start for competition in Scotland and the North East to secure cheaper winter bills.

The number of customers able to switch per day has been reduced from 50,000 to 35,000. Ofgas said the rate had been cut because "we expect more customers to switch and we want to have a figure that is sustainable".

Sets brokers score ahead of opening

A RISE in interest rates, combined with a massive hike in oil taxation and the reimposition of sanctions on Iraq, kept London brokers busy on Saturday as the Stock Exchange carried out another rehearsal of its new electronic dealing system with a host of fictional scenarios (Adam Jones writes).

The new system, dubbed Sets, starts on October 20. Out of 76 firms having their Sets competency tested in Saturday's trial, ten failed, an improvement on the previous Saturday, when a quarter missed the mark. A Stock Exchange spokesman said none of the firms had failed a second time.

Even though all member firms were not participating, 34,000 trades were made, not far short of the real London average of about 40,000 trades in UK stocks each day.

Directors urge retreat from scrutiny

COMPANY directors will today urge the Stock Exchange's inquiry on how firms are run to rewrite previous reviews of corporate governance to draw them away from setting codes and instead make them more flexible (Philip Bassett writes).

The move by the Institute of Directors is an attempt to check the growing scrutiny they have been subjected to.

In its preliminary report in July, the committee headed by Sir Ronald Hampel, ICI chairman, strongly urged a move away from the "box-ticking" approach of the Cadbury and Greenbury inquiries.

The IoD says: "The committee should remove any unnecessary prescription from previous reports" and welcomes the Hampel committee's explicit aim to "rebalance" the debate on corporate governance back towards business prosperity.

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WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 30

PERITE

(b) Experienced, expert, skilled. From the Latin *peritus* experienced. "Friends who are in the habit of exercising a profuse rather than a perite hospitality."

NEMERTINE

(b) Belonging to the class of flatworms (chiefly marine) known as Nemertina or Nemertida or Nemertea, usually characterised by an elongated, very contractile body, and often brilliantly coloured. Named for Nemertes a Greek sea-anthrop. "The Nemertines are, as a rule, elongate, often evis ribbon-like, animals of considerable size."

PLAP

(c) To come down or fall with a flat impact, and with the sound that this makes. Onomatopoeic and portmanteau, made from the beginning of *plash* and from the end of *flap or slip*. "Constatious people beadies waddling and plapping in their odious yellow papoosees."

NEXAL

(c) Characterised by the imposition of servitude as a penalty on a defaulting debtor. From Roman Law. In Latin *nexus* or *necum* means a bond or obligation. "It is probable that in early times plebeian law recognised no debt except that created by the *nexal* contract."

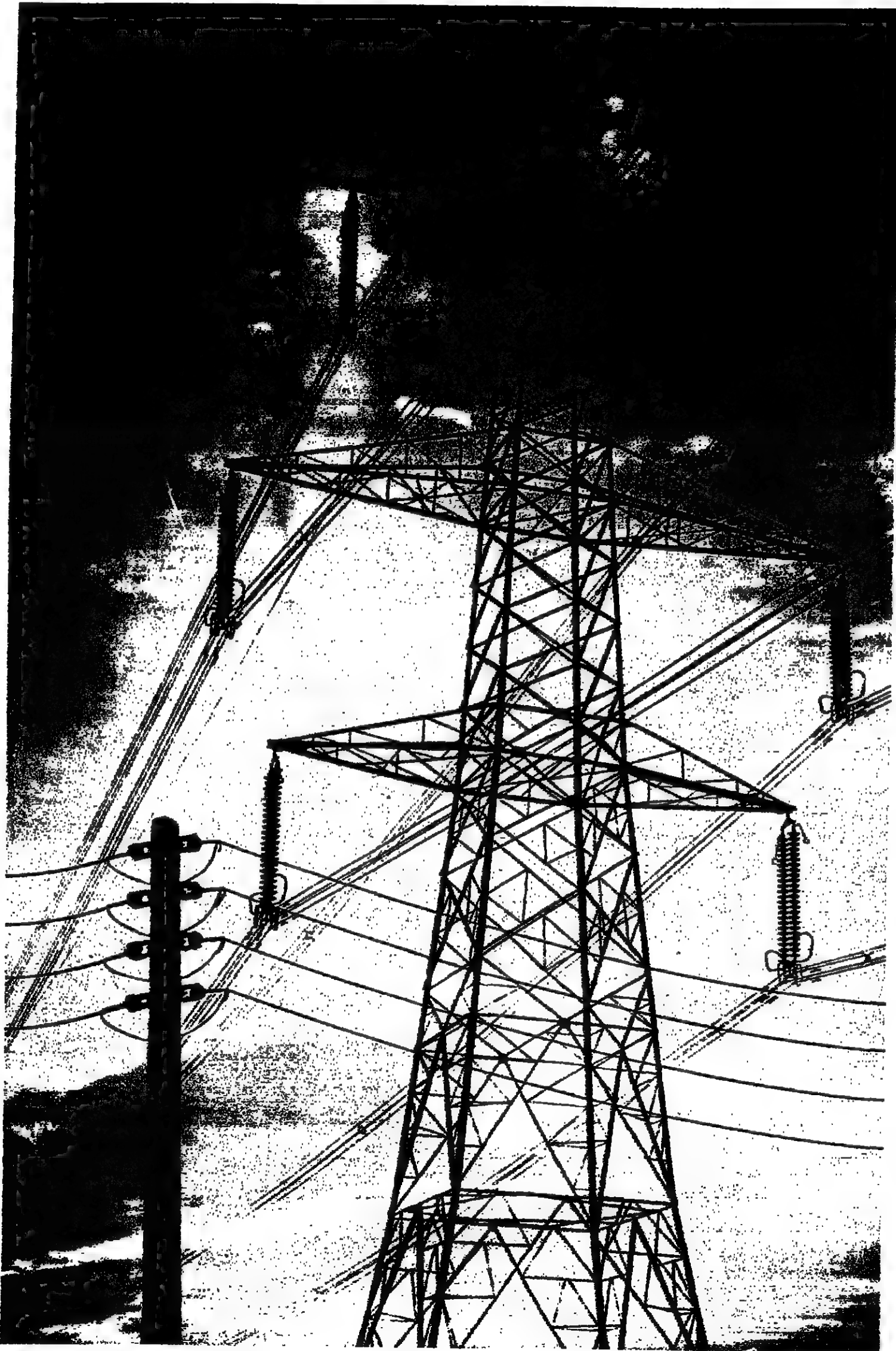
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Roadshow will help to fix minimum wage

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

THE Low Pay Commission will today approve a groundbreaking move to promote Labour's plan for a statutory minimum wage.

The commission, set up by the Government to recommend the level for a national minimum wage, is to embark on a "roadshow" - a series of regional visits to explain to companies, organisations and the public what the minimum wage will mean. The exercise will also be

used to help to fix the level for the minimum wage.

Commission members and officials plan to visit Leeds, Manchester, Belfast, Glasgow, Newcastle, Cardiff, the Midlands and the South West.

As well as explaining Labour's plans to local firms, business organisations, low pay groups, community bodies and employees for their views about the right level for the new minimum. The commis-

sion also plans opinion polls and to set up local focus groups to test the plan.

Today's meeting will consider a detailed and extensive document setting out the main economic arguments for and against a minimum wage, and its level, which has been drawn up by Whitehall officials after an review of the available economic literature.

The commission has now contacted some 350 organisations and individuals, ask-

ing them to submit evidence on the level at which a minimum should be set. The commission is calling for replies by early next month.

A letter to organisations says: "We are not expecting you to recommend a specific national minimum wage, but would be interested in your assessment of the impact of different national minimum wage levels."

The CBI and the TUC will give oral evidence to the commission in private on October 14.

The commission will make its decision on the level to recommend to ministers in the late spring.

Pressure on the commission will be stepped up this week with publication of the 1997 New Earnings Survey, a government snapshot of pay levels which is used by trade unions and pay lobby groups to fix the annual target for a minimum wage of half male median earnings.

Publication of the survey on Thursday by the Office for National Statistics will raise the union target level for a national minimum from the current £4.42 an hour to an expected level of about £4.60, although most Labour and union leaders acknowledge privately that the likely level will be considerably less than this.

Care First chairman to face renewed pressure to resign

By Adam Jones

THE boardroom tension at Care First, the quoted nursing home operator, looks set to continue with a renewed attempt to unseat Keith Bradshaw, the chairman who has just agreed to relinquish his executive duties.

Mr Bradshaw's move last week has failed to placate some shareholders, who are still considering whether to try to force the reinstatement of Chai Patel, whose recent resignation as chief executive

brought the boardroom rifts into the open.

At a board meeting last Wednesday, Mr Bradshaw agreed to take on a non-executive role in the face of earlier calls for Dr Patel's reinstatement. He is continuing to act as chief executive until a new one is found. But shareholders are unhappy about the way their opinions were canvassed.

Care First denied a report that three senior managers

were poised to leave. It said the shareholders vociferously opposed to Mr Bradshaw and the boardroom compromise represented just 15 per cent of issued share capital. This is disputed by the dissidents.

The power struggle at Care First stems from the merger of Takara, the nursing home operator chaired by Mr Bradshaw, and Court Cavendish, of which Dr Patel was chief executive.



Adrian Batten's shareholding will drop to about 14 per cent from 28 after flotation

Aran seeks £5m to develop

By Paul Durman

ARAN SOFTWARE is hoping to raise £5 million to develop its business by floating on the Alternative Investment Market.

Aran, which is 55 per cent owned by Friends Provident, produces software development tools and management information software. It

claims its latest range of development tools, Sea-Change New Horizon, are the most flexible available. Adrian Batten, whose 28 per cent stake will fall to about 14 per cent after the flotation, said: "Any applications written in this environment will run any computer using any database

under any operating system, which is a tremendous advantage."

Aran, which hopes to be valued at about £15 million, made a £400,000 loss on sales of £2.6 million in the year to March, but is forecasting an £18,000 profit on sales of £4.2 million this year.

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET

1997	High	Low	Mid cap (millions)	Price	Why	YTD %	P/E	1997	High	Low	Mid cap (millions)	Price	Why	YTD %	P/E
139	100	14.10	AFA Systems	117 1/2	- 2	6.0	5.9	347	290	25.00	Jernigan Bros	338	...	2.8	22.2
152	121	19.80	AMCO Corp	130	434	310	4.40	Jernigan Head	371
423	170	46.00	AND Int Pub	82 1/2	42 1/2	7.0	7.0	705	420	7.05	Jernigan	437
127	84	8.20	Abacus Recruit	125	+	1.5	1.5	94	74	4.63	Jernigan	27	22.1
196	91	27.80	Accor Plan	167 1/2	+	2 1/2	19.0	400	115	4.00	Jernigan	115
89	54	3.91	Active Imaging	265	...	4.5	10.3	97	47	5.45	Jernigan	47
114	74	3.75	Alcan Gold	265	...	4.5	10.3	78	89	7.70	Karynne Software	89
230	200	30.30	A & S Gold	265	...	4.5	10.3	32	35	3.75	Jernigan	35
117	72	40.30	Altech	88 1/2	+	1.3	...	172	172	17.20	Kargler	177 1/2	+	1.4	14.8
44	21 1/2	14.80	Altemark & Sd	38	+	1.6	...	130	120	5.14	Lady In Leisure	122 1/2	...	4.3	16.7
52	28	4.95	Alton	77 1/2	98	82	4.24	La Seta	98
117	73 1/2	40.30	Anglo-Welsh	77 1/2	132	125	13.20	Kargler	125
510	465	58.00	Am St Brewery	810	...	4.2	12.3	150	135	15.00	Kargler	135
123	105	7.22	Am St Dr Pr	123	380	340	3.80	Kargler	340
129	65	64.70	Antares	84 1/2	3520	3150	67.50	Lawis Group	3520
148	89	21.10	Anrich	125 1/2	47	79	6.35	Lasso	47
100	80	9.18	Archer Dedicated	125 1/2	473	328	76.18	La Seta Srs	473
36 1/2	7	6.40	Arion Prop	27	14	9	0.46	Lasso Srs	9
115	30	34.50	Arnsford	40	535	400	10.30	Lasso	515	...	0.2	20.5
26 1/2	130	47.30	Asa Capital	227 1/2	...	7 1/2	3.1	105	40	12.20	Lasso	43
69 1/2	64 1/2	1.22	Athlete Trust	57 1/2	124	44	1.32	Lasso & Edm Publ	5	...	3.1	12.7
103 1/2	89 1/2	33.60	Avon Oil	130 1/2	...	2.4	...	119	112 1/2	2.87	Langridge Int	119 1/2	...	2.2	15.8
144 1/2	120 1/2	40.80	B&W Adv Comm	130 1/2	87 1/2	87 1/2	8.00	Lasso	87 1/2
3 1/2	3	2.57	B&W Serv	30 1/2	119 1/2	112 1/2	2.87	Langridge Int	119 1/2
58 1/2	25	5.50	B&W Health	30 1/2	87 1/2	87 1/2	8.00	Lasso	87 1/2
12 1/2	8 1/2	3.20	B&W Int	30 1/2	119 1/2	112 1/2	2.87	Langridge Int	119 1/2
4 1/2	2 1/2	3.78	B&W Int	30 1/2	87 1/2	87 1/2	8.00	Lasso	87 1/2
90	60	1.28	B&W Int	30 1/2	87 1/2	87 1/2	8.00	Lasso	87 1/2
70 1/2	50	4.45	B&W Int	30 1/2	87 1/2	87 1/2	8.00	Lasso	87 1/2
144 1/2	120 1/2	40.80	B&W Adv Comm	130 1/2	87 1/2	87 1/2	8.00	Lasso	87 1/2
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France Telecom

Michel Bon should be able to make France Telecom more dynamic after its partial sale by the French Government, but the state will keep control

The privatisation that dare not speak its name

The French Government finds selling state firms a bit of a wrench, and analysts reckon Lionel Jospin is failing France's long-term needs, says Adam Sage

Six months ago, Lionel Jospin said that he was opposed to privatisations, and against European monetary union if it meant more austerity. "His view has not changed," an aide to the French Prime Minister said last week. "But he has discovered reality and it is not exactly what he foresaw." The aide is right. M Jospin remains wedded to the socialist principles that he espoused before coming to power in June. Yet he has grudgingly accepted that without a minimum of reforms, France will miss out on Europe's single currency, burden its industry and fail to reduce its chronic unemployment, which stands above three million.

The markets are unenthusiastic about M Jospin and sceptical about France's long-term prospects. However, they are relieved that the left-wing Cabinet, which includes Communist and Green ministers, has abandoned at least some of its dogma.

Today, for example, Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the Finance Minister, will launch the sale of a minority stake in France Telecom, the state telecommunications group. On

Wednesday, the Government will produce a tax-raising budget that should smooth France's path to the euro. And later this month, it will start a process that will result in the transfer of Thomson-CSF, the defence electronics group, to the private sector.

One analyst in Paris said: "There is a gap of about 15 per cent between French equities and other equities, which can be explained by apprehension over government policy. However, it's not going as badly as we feared."

The France Telecom sale illustrated the point, she said. Whereas other European nations are privatising telecommunications, ready for liberalisation next year, M Jospin is determined to keep control of the French group. He will float 20 per cent of the shares on the stock market, and sell another 3 to 4 per cent to Telecom's 150,000 employees and 7.5 per cent to Deutsche Telekom.

After a share issue, the French state will be left with about 63 per cent of Telecom.

The move should raise about Fr40 billion (£4 billion). The money will be used to prop up ailing nationalised concerns as GAN, the insurance group, and Thomson's consumer electronics subsidiary, Thomson Multi-media, both of which need an urgent Fr11 billion cash injection.

"This policy is exasperating," said Andrew Clearfield, manager of TIAA-CREF, the US pension fund. "The Government is prepared to float companies on the stock market to raise money, but does not want to hand power to shareholders."

Other analysts, however, are more pragmatic, arguing that M Jospin has done just enough to allow France Telecom to compete with its rivals, including Cegetel, a subsidiary of Générale des Eaux that is allied to BT. "International investors will back the sale, but they are prudent," said a trader in Paris.

France Telecom is reasonably well placed. Its chairman, Michel Bon, was able to report half-yearly profits of Fr4.9 billion this month, the first controls the French domestic market and it enjoys a decent enough reputation. The sale should pave the way for an alliance with Deutsche Telekom and enable M Bon to pursue his aim of making his company more dynamic.

A government source said that M Jospin, who expressed vehement opposition when the previous centre-right administration announced the partial privatisation of Telecom last year, had "realised the firm was a sitting duck without reform."

When the Thomson-CSF deal arrives on his gold-leafed desk this month, M Jospin is likely to reach a similar conclusion. One of his first moves after forming his Socialist-led Government was to end the privatisation procedure begun by his predecessor, Alain Juppé, who wanted to hand control of the defence electronics concern to Alcatel Alsthom or Lagardère.

Yet M Strauss-Kahn convinced M Jospin that unless the company were sold, it would be left behind as the rest of the European defence industry, including GEC and British Aerospace, forged ahead with restructuring.

The result is likely to be a privatisation that dare not speak its name. Alcatel and Lagardère, perhaps with other French defence groups, will be given shares in Thomson-CSF in return for providing money or assets. The Government, which now owns 58 per cent of the company, will become a minority shareholder, although it will retain a "decisive stake", according to M Strauss-Kahn.

At no time have he or M Jospin used the word "privatisation" when discussing the deal, and nor are they likely to. "They are being pragmatic, given the political constraints

national economist with Smith Barney in Paris. "But, so far, he has managed to keep everyone more or less happy."

He said that by agreeing to limited privatisations, M Jospin had achieved a difficult balance between the conflicting demands of the Communist Party and of the markets.

And, with economic growth likely to reach 3 per cent next year, he may even be able to point to a fall in France's seemingly incurable unemployment total.

M Jospin should also be able to claim credit for French participation in a European single currency. By abandoning his more expensive election pledges and raising corporation and capital gains tax, and with the help of an unexpectedly high growth rate this year, the Prime Minister has been able to guide the French public deficit towards the 3 per cent ceiling imposed on those countries wanting to join EMU.

In his budget on Wednesday, M Strauss-Kahn is likely to maintain public expenditure in line with inflation, to raise taxes, notably on income from savings, and to reduce welfare payments to middle-income families. In so doing, he will be able to announce that France is set to hit the Maastricht target next year, ensuring that it will be among the first wave of countries to adopt the euro.

"There may be a lot of political excitement along the way, but there is a high probability that the single currency will start on time and that France will participate," said Mr Engländer. "The fact that EMU looks more like a reality will, itself, boost confidence in France."

However, Mr Engländer believes that M Jospin is failing to prepare his country for the long term. "What happens when the next economic slowdown comes?" he says. "That's when being nimble is really important, and that's when French companies could be caught out again."

In other words, the French Prime Minister needs a further dose of reality.



Dominique Strauss-Kahn feared for Thomson-CSF

They can't get no satisfaction

Cutting Edge
The Complainers

Tomorrow
9.00pm



A war-winning rifle

Decisive Weapons
BBC2, 8.00pm

For one who doesn't know a pistol from a peashooter this historical series has been a revelation. Nothing gung-ho about it, unless you count the roaring reconstructions of old battles — more palatable in paint than in grizzly photographs and newsreels. *Lock, Stock and Barrel* is the story of the Springfield rifle... Cue the Battle of Gettysburg in 1863, turning point of the American Civil War. It was indeed decisive — the Springfield won the Union Army its great victory and "changed the face of war for ever" by replacing the flintlock smooth-bore musket with a long spiral groove which twisted the new spherical bullet for far greater speed and accuracy. Says one military buffon: "You pointed a smooth-bore but you aimed a rifle."

Wing and A Prayer
Channel 5, 10.00pm

Think *This Life*, *LA Law* and most recently *The Practice* and you've got a fair idea of what makes this latest series tick. The channel may call it "the first original British drama to lift the lid on the legal profession" and it is written by a former barrister (Matthew Hall) but this first of six episodes looks all too familiar. It's predictably slick, sexy and fast moving but the two or three cases it covers per episode are clearly defined by the courtroom scenes which link the background dramas. Kate Buffery stars as Amanda Dankworth "the feminist advocate in the north west" and tonight the five chirpy barristers of *Salt House Chambers* find themselves coping with a sinister gang of black drug dealers, an alleged paedophile, and a deranged doctor who keeps threatening to kill himself although one is never quite sure why. Promising.

Equinox: Fighting the G-Force
Channel 4, 9.00pm

We've been this way before but never so vividly. Fighting the G-Force details, with horrendous film of top gun fighter pilots trying to stay conscious at up to nine G (nine times the force of gravity), just how far along the road science has come to keep these men (and in the US since 1993, women) in the



Peter Dougherty (BBC2, 9.30pm)

cockpit. They now wear amazing inflatable suits which squeeze upper body muscles to keep the blood flowing to the brain. They do fierce anaerobic exercises and — sensibly you would think — in Germany they are screened for their resistance to G-force the moment they apply for the Luftwaffe. But, from the pilots' point of view there is a downside. Research is looking at computerised fighter planes without a pilot in sight.

Picture This: Life on Air
BBC2, 9.30pm

Peter Dougherty is "Senior VP Creative on Air" and as such has more than 700 rather earnest, trying to look cool, young people working for him. In ordinary parlance this is a no-nonsense New Yorker is Creative Director of MTV Europe and for non-satellite viewers that's the immensely successful music station which screens such nuggets as *Koolhaas* and *Live'n'Load*. But filmmaker/reporter/performance artist Annie Griffin is not so much interested in the music as how Mr D and his team choose the talent and encourage the film-makers who and it was sometimes startling animation between the music sequences. "This imaging between the music is where young animators get their breaks", he says. According to Rachel Purnell, MTV's Senior VP for Production and Programming "this kind of broadcasting is the future". Griffin's film shows how she just might be right. Elizabeth Cowley

Start The Week
Radio 4, 9.00am

If there was such a thing as a preview tape of *Start the Week*, the programme would not be what it is. Presenter Melvyn Bragg is apt to be prickly when people make snide remarks about the number of plugs on the programme, but we only do this to put Bragg in a bad mood. In truth *Start The Week* is great listening, especially so this morning for the main guest is Norman Mailer, who was flying over from New York last night. In a truly civilised session, Mailer's autobiography *Jesus* would be sold out while Oasis played in half-empty pubs. The subject is Mailer's "autobiography" of Jesus. *The Gospel According to The Son*. Mailer is also interviewed by Richard Coles for *Night Waves* tomorrow night.

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiteley. Includes 12.30pm News and a 1.5 hour session by Robbie Williams in *Mad as Hell* 2.00 Nicky Campbell. Includes the *Today* show. 3.00 John Gurn 4.00 Mary Gooder 6.15 News 6.30 Evening Session. Includes new sessions by Angélique and Humanae No! 8.30 Live Music Update with Gary Sinks 8.40 Andy Kershaw. Includes a live session by Sade 9.00 Mary Anne. Includes 1.00am Live with 4.00 Chris Moyles

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Thompson 3.00 Ed Stevens 5.00 John Gurn 7.00 Mary Gooder 8.15 News 8.30 Evening Session. Includes new sessions by Angélique and Humanae No! 8.30 Live Music Update with Gary Sinks 8.40 Andy Kershaw. Includes a live session by Sade 9.00 Mary Anne. Includes 1.00am Live with 4.00 Chris Moyles

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am The Breakfast Programme with Jane Garvey 9.00 The Magazine with Brian Hayes 12.00 Monday with Mark 2.00pm Ruzic on Five. Sports Results. Includes a special guest 4.00 News 4.15 Sports News 4.30 News 4.45 Sports News 4.55 News 5.00 News 5.15 Sports News 5.30 News 5.45 Sports News 5.55 News 6.00 News 6.15 Sports News 6.30 News 6.45 Sports News 6.55 News 7.00 News 7.15 Sports News 7.30 News 7.45 Sports News 7.55 News 8.00 News 8.15 Sports News 8.30 News 8.45 Sports News 8.55 News 9.00 News 9.15 Sports News 9.30 News 9.45 Sports News 9.55 News 10.00 News 10.15 Sports News 10.30 News 10.45 Sports News 10.55 News 11.00 News 11.15 Sports News 11.30 News 11.45 Sports News 11.55 News 12.00 News 12.15 Sports News 12.30 News 12.45 Sports News 12.55 News 1.00 News 1.15 Sports News 1.30 News 1.45 Sports News 1.55 News 2.00 News 2.15 Sports News 2.30 News 2.45 Sports News 2.55 News 3.00 News 3.15 Sports News 3.30 News 3.45 Sports News 3.55 News 4.00 News 4.15 Sports News 4.30 News 4.45 Sports News 4.55 News 5.00 News 5.15 Sports News 5.30 News 5.45 Sports News 5.55 News 6.00 News 6.15 Sports News 6.30 News 6.45 Sports News 6.55 News 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always has been the BBC turning up at the student party and asking who's for the fruit punch and the hogdods, then.

The whole of the evening was interspersed with Simon Bates — still an awesome voice — doing *Celebrity Our Times*, in one of which Neil Hamilton described his meeting with Christine as like Lauren Bacall coming on in a Humphrey Bogart movie, which shows the man does have a sense of humour after all.

And for the last hour, Chris Evans's own cameras followed Chris Evans and his team around the *West Country* in what purported to be a history of the Radio 1 Road Show but was no more than an excuse to laugh at some sad, E.L. Whisty characters who also followed the Road Show, and to marvel that Radio 1 had ever let Evans go.

● *Matthew Band is away*

**John
Diamond**

1982, is back twisting the giant peppermill again. The big event of the night, though, was **The Radio 1 Story**, a "documentary" as the BBC press office had it, in the unironic voice of Smashy and Nicey. This was full of laid-back portentousness — "Pop music had already been to the party of parties and was recovering from the hangover of the Summer of Love."

Tellingly, it was only John Peel who appeared with an unfinished dateline on his on-screen caption: he was John Peel (DJ 1967 — while everyone else from the original line-up is now on Radio 2 or, worse, in local radio. And more tellingly still it turns out that the music revolutions of the 1970s weren't the realm of generational


At one point Matthew Bannister, the current controller, managed to describe his relationship with Chris Evans as "creative" and sound as if the word had four sets of quotation marks around it, but generally the documentary missed the main point, which was that Radio 1 was never cool, never cutting edge, never really very near where it was at with a few generations. Radio

And for the last hour, Chris Evans's own cameras followed Chris Evans and his team around the West Country in what purported to be a history of the Radio 1 Road Show but was no more than an excuse to laugh at some sad, E.L. Whistly characters who also followed the Road Show, and to marvel that Radio 1 had ever let Evans go.

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CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE
annel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a VideoCrypt decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No are picture: 10.92075 GHz; sound: 10.92 and 7.20 MHz

News 5 News Early (7135532)
USA High Teen sitcom (t) (5226613)
Havakazoo (4267795)
WideWorld The issues raised by the increase in people working from home (9/15) (5617236)
Espresso (7643477) 10.00 Exclusive (t) (5655532) 10.00 Attractions (t) (5712980) 11.00 London (1202938) 11.50 Double Espresso (69524754)
The Bold and the Beautiful (t) (1017272) 12.30pm Family Affairs (t) (t) (9704532)
5 News Update (56878754) 1.05 Sunset Beach (t) (6487006) 2.00 5's Company (8458687)
The Dream Goes On (1991) with James Keach and Matthew Almond. A sentimental drama: a young Californian and his estranged father embark on a journey to rediscover their roots. Paul Almond directs (7146648)
Move on Up Game show (9937209)
100 Per Cent The game show without a host (972822)
Family Affairs Mel returns from her cousin (t) (9818174)
Oasis: Mad for it The second part of the documentary series about the pop group examines Liam and Noel's upbringing (8890445)
The Dragon's Tale A wildlife documentary about the creatures that inhabit the Indonesian island of Sulawesi (9914358)
Hot Property A couple from Cardiff looking for a £100,000-£180,000 home (t) (8908182)
5 News (t) (8815700)
The Sweeney Vintage Flying Squad drama series with John Thew and Dennis Weirman (8414008)



The legal team (10.00pm)
Wing and a Prayer The first of a new British legal drama series (t) (8475272)

Prisoner: Cell Block H (4705396)
am Live and Dangerous Sports maga-
zine (285-16269)
Asian Football Show (8018694)
The Streets of San Francisco
(6357878)
100 Per Cent (f) (7569014)

THE HISTORY CHANNEL
4.00pm Vietnam, the Ten Thousand Day

27 **CHALLENGE TV**
28 **27/17/16** **7:00** Biography, Audrey Hepburn
29 **(13/15/14/2)** **8:00** Close
30

WIN WITH PRIZE TIME
31 **8:00pm** **Game** **Win \$300 Say The Word** **8:00**
32 **5:00pm** **Forums** **6:30p** **Catnip** **7:15p**
33 **The 1000 Questions** **8:00** **Spit** **8:30**
34 **8:30pm** **True or Un** **9:15** **Winter** **12:00**
35 **10:00** **Measure** **10:11** **11:15** **Whistle** **12:00**
36 **Spay** **12:30pm** **Hart** **1:00** **1:30**
37 **The Big Day** **2:30pm** **1:45p** **Jungle** **3:00**
38 **Two Dads** **3:30pm** **1** **My** **4:00** **National**
39 **Geography** **4:00** **Explorers** **5:00** **Shopping**

UK LIVING
40 **6:00pm** **Lucky** **7:00** **9:00** **11:00**
41 **7:00** **8:00** **10:00** **11:00** **12:00**
42 **Channel** **10:10** **11:00** **12:00**
43 **The Young and the Restless** **11:50**
44 **12:00** **1:00** **2:00** **3:00** **4:00**
45 **Robots** **1** **Tempest** **2** **Cheep** **3**
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CHILDREN
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MTV
81 **The 24 hour music channel. News,**
82 **and the latest music video charts.**
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THE 24 HOUR MUSIC CHANNEL. NEWS,
AND THE LATEST MUSIC VIDEO CHARTS.
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THE VIDEO HITS CHANNEL. CLASSIC ROCK
AND POP VIDEOS AND THE BEST NEW SOUNDS.
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POUNDED 45
Strong sterling
to put a dent
in Guinness

BUSINESS

FOR SALE 50
Privatisation
that dare not
speak its name



BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 22 1997

BBC and BskyB in new dispute

By Raymond Snoddy
Media Editor

THE row between British Sky Broadcasting, the satellite group, and the BBC over a planned BBC 24-hour television news service has ignited again.

BskyB has accused the BBC and John Birt, its Director-General, of predatory pricing because of its plan to offer the new service free to cable television operators. BskyB claims this will damage its own 24-hour service, Sky News, which costs cable companies 49p a month per subscriber.

Three cable companies are believed to have already served notice to drop Sky News in preference to the new BBC service, which is due to be launched at the beginning of November. Sky News is available free to those with a satellite dish.

The BBC has submitted a new application to Chris Smith, the Culture, Media and Sports Secretary, asking for permission to offer the channel free of charge.

Earlier this month the corporation asked Mr Smith to withdraw the permission already given because the complex issues involved had not been fully set out in the original application. The danger was that BskyB, a consortium in which News International, owner of *The Times*, has a 40 per cent stake, would immediately seek a judicial review of the decision.

The BBC wants to reach as many people as possible with its new service, which is being paid for by licence fee money. All cable subscribers have already paid their BBC licence fee and the BBC believes it is reasonable to offer the service to them at no extra charge.

If the Government decides to renew the BBC's permission to give the channel free to cable companies, BskyB is expected to retaliate.

Financier uses IMF conference as platform to attack Malaysian leader

Global boom will collapse, Soros warns

By Alasdair Murray and Janet Bush in Hong Kong

GEORGE SOROS yesterday issued a stark warning that the current global economic boom will soon end in bust and that further deregulation of international financial markets will prove no cure for economic instability.

The billionaire financier, who is credited with forcing the pound out of the ERM in 1992, also launched a furious attack on Mahathir Mohamad, Prime Minister of Malaysia, whom he accused of being a "menace to his country".

In a direct riposte to the International Monetary Fund, which is calling for further liberalisation of international capital flows, Mr Soros said new moves to open financial sectors to foreign involvement could prove misguided due to the "fickleness" of international capital. "Financial markets are inherently unstable and international markets even more so," Mr Soros told delegates at the IMF annual conference in Hong Kong.

"International capital flows are notorious for their boom-bust pattern and I cannot believe the present boom will not be followed by bust until history has proven me wrong," Mr Soros said.

Mr Soros's comments were made only a few days after *The Times* revealed that Warren Buffett, the renowned American investor, has moved \$2 billion into US Treasury bills. This was regarded as a sign of Mr Buffett's nervousness at the current high stock market prices.

Mr Soros said the "laissez-faire" idea that markets should be left to correct themselves was "dangerous" and likely to cause serious economic and social dislocation.

Mr Soros instead gave his backing to a greater mobilisation of domestic savings to

decrease reliance on foreign capital and called for greater international co-operation to improve the global financial system. "I am firmly convinced that the present global capitalist system can be sustained only by deliberate and persistent efforts to correct and contain its deficiencies," he said. "Co-operation between central banks is always worthwhile," added Mr Soros who offered his support for joint action in South-East Asia to help to cure the region's currency turmoil.

But Mr Soros strongly rejected a call by the Malaysian Prime Minister to protect his country's currency, the ringgit, by banning currency trading, claiming it did not deserve "serious consideration". Mr Soros said: "Interfering with convertibility of capital at a moment like this is a recipe for disaster."

Mr Soros insisted that Dr Mahathir was simply using him as a "scapegoat to cover up his own failure", adding that his funds had bought and held rather than sold Asian currencies during the crisis. Mr Soros also said he believed the region would bounce back from this "temporary setback" providing structural reforms in the banking sector were completed.

Dr Mahathir's comments even prompted panic in his own Government, with Anwar Ibrahim, Finance Minister, forced to try to restore credibility. Mr Ibrahim claimed that Dr Mahathir was simply referring to plans for further financial liberalisation.

Dr Mahathir has repeatedly blamed "buccaneer" currency traders, and Mr Soros in particular, for prompting the economic crisis that devastated currencies and stock markets across South-East Asia during the past few months.

"Currency trading is unnecessary, unproductive and totally immoral," Dr Mahathir said, before warning that he would ban all currency trading not needed for financing trade.

But analysts predicted another wave of selling of Asian currencies today in response to the latest heresy from Dr Mahathir and obvious tensions between the Malaysian Prime Minister and senior government officials.

Clever positioning, page 46

NYSE inquiry at ING Barings

By Alasdair Murray

ING Barings has launched a review of its emerging markets operations in New York after a New York Stock Exchange investigation discovered a huge backlog of unsettled share bargains at the investment bank.

The NYSE acted after a regular audit found an "unacceptable" number of uncancelled bargains on the Dutch owned bank's books.

News of the investigation will prompt embarrassment at ING, which bailed out Barings after the collapse of the British merchant bank two

and a half years ago. In the wake of the crash, ING lost 72 staff from its Latin American team in New York to Deutsche Morgan Grenfell.

ING said yesterday that it is reviewing its back office procedures and is considering hiring more staff to help to overcome the problems. But the company pointed out that emerging market trades generally take longer to settle and emphasised the problems bore no resemblance to the unauthorised trades made by Nick Leeson which prompted the collapse of Barings.

The company added that the volume of trades had increased greatly during the past few months because of the economic turmoil in South East Asia and a general increase in emerging market work.

Some reports have suggested that the Securities & Exchange Commission, the chief US regulator, has launched its own investigation, although ING said it had no knowledge of any SEC involvement. ING also denied that Ned Schoenfeld, chief operating officer at ING Barings securities, had been dismissed.

Orange takes 80% off cost of overseas mobile phone calls

By Eric Reguly

THE rivalry between the four mobile phone companies will intensify today with the announcement that Orange is to cut the prices of international calls by as much as 80 per cent.

The changes mean Orange customers may find it cheaper to phone North America than to make a local call, and cheaper to use a mobile phone than a conventional line.

Orange said the new prices,

which take effect in October, will undercut British Telecom by about 20 per cent. A five-minute daytime call to New York will cost 89p on Orange, £1.17p on BT and £6.46 on Cellnet, the mobile phone company that is 60 per cent owned by BT. Orange's old rate for the call was £4.29.

The changes are part of Orange's strategy of expanding the use of wireless communications in a market that is losing momentum. Prices for overseas calls among all operators are so high that the service, used almost exclusively by globe-trotting executives, generates an insignificant amount of income.

The cost of a five-minute call to Berlin will be £1.06 on Orange, compared with £1.42 on BT and £4.11 on One2One, the smallest operator. The prices are standard rates.

Hans Snook, Orange's managing director, said the price reductions were designed to encourage customers to use their mobile phones as regularly as fixed-line phones. "We believe that there is no reason why the cost of phoning abroad should be as high as it is," he said.

Depending on the service contracts bought by Orange customers, the new international prices can be cheaper than domestic or local calls. Orange's local rate for day-time calls ranges from 14p to 25p a minute, compared with the new 15p a minute rate for calls to the US and Canada.



George Soros said the idea that markets should be left to correct themselves was dangerous

Brown to publish details of currency reserves

FROM JANET BUSH

GORDON BROWN, the Chancellor, yesterday continued his drive for more open government by promising to publish full details of Britain's gold and currency reserves and all its dealings in the foreign exchange market.

If this initiative had been in place in 1992, Britain would have had a full account of the events of Black Wednesday when the Bank of England spent billions of pounds, effectively wiping out Britain's foreign exchange reserves in a single day in a doomed attempt to keep sterling within the exchange-rate mechanism.

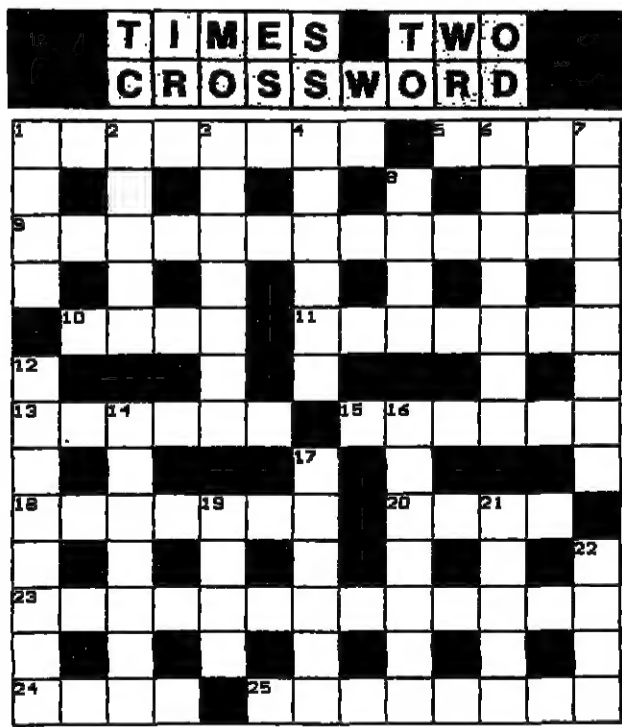
In a statement to the powerful interim committee of the International Monetary Fund, Mr Brown also proposed that the IMF, together with the World Bank and the OECD, develop a code of good practice for promoting openness in fiscal and monetary policy.

Mr Brown said: "The day of managing economic policy secretly behind closed doors and of unaccountable decision making are coming to an end... In place of the old conspiracy of silence, there will in future be a duty to inform."

Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, was asked yesterday as part of the new spirit of openness to reveal the amount spent on Black Wednesday. He declined.

Every three months, the Treasury will publish full details of its reserves, with a breakdown of the currencies held and a commentary explaining significant changes to the reserves position or make-up. It will also publish details of its position in both spot and forward currency markets. Full accounts of all foreign exchange dealings will also be published annually.

Mr Brown's proposals are particularly relevant in the context of the recent currency turmoil in Asia.



No 1205

- ACROSS**
- Major misfortune (8)
 - Assistance (4)
 - Be fussy (4,3,6)
 - Boring (computer-obsessed) person (4)
 - In superior direction (7)
 - Shuffle; holiday town (6)
 - One without money (6)
 - As hint, out-of-form player may be (7)
 - (Eg Richmond Hill) girl (4)
 - Accept without protest (4,5,4)
 - Irish (4)
 - A regaining leg of health (8)
- DOWN**
- Imitate (4)
 - Money made, usually filthy (5)
 - Take mazy course (7)
 - Ennui (6)
 - Action for own glorification (3,4)
 - Delight (8)
 - Unfreeze (4)
 - One owed money (8)
 - Swimmer's air-tube (7)
 - Brisk (mus.); L., Milton (7)
 - Counsel (6)
 - Influence; tug (4)
 - Jostle; push may come to it (5)
 - Covetousness (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1204
ACROSS: 1 Husk 3 Upmarket 11 Shut up shop 14 Mildly 15 Scheme
Initial 21 Halo 22 Caffeine
DOWN: 1 Handsome 2 Septuple 4 Praise 5 All mod cons
6 Kite 7 Tint 10 Gullotine 12 Permeate 13 Deadlock
16 Sprain 18 Disc 19 Fief

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